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Iran can produce modern weapons

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

IRAN has successfully mobilised its weapons industry and has the capability to produce a wide variety of sophisticated weaponry, Iranian Charge D'Afaires in Kuwait Javad Turkabadi said yesterday.

He also said the missing gunboat affair has been settled with Kuwait.

During the eight-year Gulf war, "Iran faced kind of economic siege and realised the importance of achieving self-reliance, not only in the manufacture of weapons but also in making other industrial products," he said.

Turkabadi said in an exclusive interview, his country's leadership has studied the "changed military needs and will concentrate on developing its (weapons) industry to improve the armed forces."

Commenting on reports that Iran has plans to buy weapons from China, and other countries, he said: "Iran will buy (from other sources) weapons that can't be made in Iran; we'll buy from those (countries) who sell (arms) without any pre-conditions on how and where to use (them)."

Turkabadi stressed "Iran will use arms only to protect its independence."

He said Iran is also rebuilding the industrial base, focusing on development of its "economic resources." The economic structure was virtually destroyed during the Gulf war years.

He said the proposed constitutional amendments would enable Iran to "overcome the war effects." On Ayatollah Khomeini's instructions, Iran is currently reviewing the constitution to "rectify flaws and weaknesses." A committee, comprising 25 experts, from the judiciary and other bodies, is studying the amendments.

Turkabadi said the presidential elections, due in August this year, will be preceded by a referendum. The elections would provide "evidence of cohesive and strong leadership in Iran," he added.

He declined to comment on the possibility of re-establishing ties with the US, saying: "I am in an Arab country; I'll talk about Arab issues."

Asked to comment on the missing Kuwaiti gunboat, Turkabadi dismissed it as "a common incident."

"Any boat at sea can go missing due to a storm or any other reason; it was an incident (that could take place) anywhere around the world. He said the matter has been "settled" with the Kuwaiti authorities."

Turkabadi, who took up his post in Kuwait early last week, said Iran hopes to strengthen "brotherly relations" with the Arab and Muslim world.

Plane crash

ISTANBUL, May 21, (Reuters): A private training plane crashed near a military airfield in Istanbul and the senior official Anatolian news agency said the pilot and co-pilot were killed.

The two-seater plane, belonging to the private Turkish aviation group THK, came down near Samandıra air base shortly after taking off for Ankara.

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میں طیارہ کرنے اور کام کرنا چاہتے ہوں
پاکستان نے انہیں دشمن کر دیں
پاکستانی طیارہ کے پیشہ واروں کو رکھا
ایران کا کوئی کوئی



A demonstrator shouts slogans in support of Beijing students during a rally in central Hong Kong yesterday which drew tens of thousands of people. (Reuter wirephoto)

Save Lebanon, appeal rivals

Syrians intercept ship

BEIRUT, May 21, (Reuters): Lebanon's rival leaders have united in pleading with the Arab League to save their country from destruction but remain as divided as ever on the solution to the crisis.

Turkabadi said the presidential elections, due in August this year, will be preceded by a referendum. The elections would provide "evidence of cohesive and strong leadership in Iran," he added.

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Sheikh Sabah

interception of a ship heading for the Christian enclave. Several small freighters have gotten through daily shelling of the Christian ports.

Aoun yesterday accused Syria of sending jets on "provocative runs" over Lebanon with Israeli complicity in a plot to continue occupying the war-torn country.

"The Arab national duty does not permit, and should not allow, the sacrifice of one of the league's founding members."

Hoss urged the league, which demands a ceasefire to savage artillery battles between Aoun's soldiers and Syrian and Muslim forces, to find a lasting solution to the political crisis.

The Arab League in its extraordinary summit in Casablanca starting Tuesday will discuss ways to strengthen the ceasefire with a 300-strong observer force and to persuade both sides to lift sea and land blockades.

Five Syrian gunboats intercepted a freighter carrying food supplies for the Christians and forced it to return to Cyprus, an Army spokesman said today.

The Syrians' use of their naval forces, along with intensified shelling, marked a tightening of the blockade on the Christians' coastal enclave, which is encircled on land by Syrian troops and militia allies.

Christian sources have said that Syria has based a flotilla of naval gunboats in Tripoli, which is Syrian-controlled despite Israel's past control of Lebanon's Mediterranean coastline.

It was the first known Syrian

Pakistan and India advancing on N-arms

CHICAGO, May 21, (Reuters): India and Pakistan are more advanced in nuclear arms than previously thought, with India poised to test a hydrogen bomb and Pakistan developing an atomic bomb for use with F-16 aircraft, researchers reported today.

If either country tests or deploys weapons at this point the other will follow, posing a danger to the security of South Asia and perhaps undermining efforts to keep other countries such as Argentina and Brazil from joining the nuclear club, the report said.

The findings came from two researchers with the Federation of American Scientists, a 5,000-member group which says it is concerned with the global arms race and other scientific issues affecting society.

The report was published in the June issue of the bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a journal devoted to disarmament and arms control whose offices in Chicago are near the site where scientists achieved the first successful nuclear chain reaction in 1942.

The authors of the report, David Albright and Tom Zamora said West German investigations into illegal exports of nuclear technology have produced mounting evidence that both countries (India and Pakistan) have even more extensive nuclear weapons research, development and production programmes than previously thought.

Pakistan will have produced enough weapon-grade uranium to make eight to 16 bombs by the end of 1990, they said, while India already has enough plutonium for at least 40 to 50 nuclear weapons, with the likely capability to produce 15 new weapons annually during the next few years.

Ahead of a full meeting of foreign ministers today the league's Lebanon committee under Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed.

The committee hopes to strengthen the shaky ceasefire across Lebanon's sectarian divide by sending a team of 320 observers under a Kuwaiti brigadier.

The West German relief workers left Lebanon today, five days after two of their colleagues were kidnapped.

It was the first known Syrian

Chinese Army ready to move

Hospital staff put on alert

BELJING, May 21, (Agencies): The Chinese Army warned today it was ready to enforce martial law in Beijing as students occupying central Tiananmen Square claimed the government has given them an ultimatum to abandon their protest by dawn or face armed troops.

However state-run television, quoting a Beijing municipal government spokesman denied that any such ultimatum had been issued.

"This is sheer speculation made up by a small number of people with ulterior motives," the television said quoting the local government spokesman.

The Army statement, read on television, said the military "must firmly carry out" the orders of the government. Under the martial law decree the Army has free reign to shoot to kill should there be resistance.

State radio said troops had already been moved to key government buildings and institutions and Chinese sources said at least two city hospitals have been told to put staff on alert and clear send all non-emergency patients home to clear bed space for possible casualties in any fighting.

Diplomats interpreted this statement as a clear declaration of intent to move troops into Beijing and enforce martial law.

But an immediate invasion of Tiananmen Square, the heart of mass pro-democracy demonstrations that have intensified over the past eight days, was less likely, they believed.

Thousands of residents have erected road blocks of buses and trucks around the city. Vast crowds have been blocking large columns of troops on major highways on the outskirts of the capital.

The statement did not say when the Army might actually take action in Beijing.

"Troops imposing martial law are completely to safeguard the capital's public order and to restore normal order. They are by no means against the patriotic students," it said.

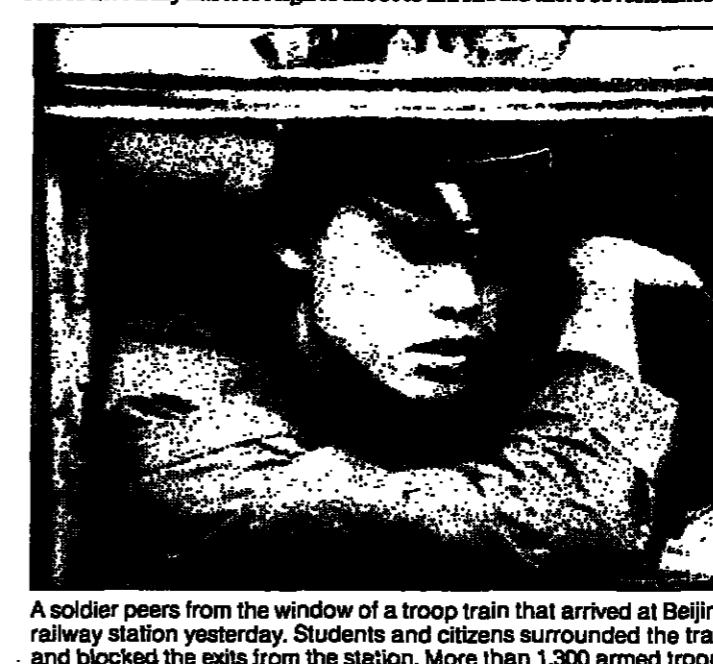
Troops blocked by civilians around Beijing have so far shown great restraint.

"At present, social order in the capital remains in great confusion, transportation is held up, some commodities are in short supply, the public order may further deteriorate and the public are deeply disturbed and worried," the statement said.

The headquarters hope the majority of patriotic students and people of all circles fully understand and give forceful support and assistance," the martial-law authorities said.

At an impromptu news conference in Tiananmen Square where more than 100,000 students were gathered, student leaders said they had been given a note from the government that the demonstration must end by 5 am local time (2000 GMT) or the Army will move in.

"At 5 am tomorrow (Monday)



A soldier peers from the window of a troop train that arrived at Beijing railway station yesterday. Students and citizens surrounded the train and blocked the exits from the station. More than 1,300 armed troops

spent the day in the train. (Reuter wirephoto)

suppression will begin. It is for the safety of the whole country," the students said the note read. Though the copies of the statement given to the press were unsigned the students claimed it was issued on behalf of conservative Premier Li Peng.

The martial law decree issued yesterday gives the Army permission to use any means to enforce the declaration — and order that allows soldiers to use deadly

Student leader Wang speaking at a news conference in the square said the students would not meet violence with violence.

"If the soldiers beat us will never beat back," he said.

He said he could not rule out the possibility that the students will actually agree to leave the square if the troops arrive. He also said that there was a chance the leaders of the disturbances would then be arrested by the martial-law authorities.

Beijing citizens who had abandoned street barricades today as Chinese troops, dispatched to enforce martial law, advanced through the city, began rebuilding them as night fell.

(Continued on Page 9 Col 4)

Benazir downplays Kabul threat

Najib offers autonomy to rebel commanders

ISLAMABAD, May 21, (Agencies): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today shrugged off a threat from Afghan President Najibullah to fire rockets at Afghan rebels on Pakistani territory.

"We will take all measures to pre-empt any attacks on our territory," she told reporters after opening a seminar in Islamabad. "These threats are not a new thing. The situation is under observation and under control."

"The solution of the Afghan problem is not escalation or threats. It is coming to grips with reality and the resistance is there," she said.

Najibullah told a meeting yesterday his forces would fire long-range rockets at what he called



Benazir: solution

rebel bases across the border if Pakistani troops intervened in the Afghan civil war.

The Soviet-backed government in Kabul has accused Pakistan almost daily since early February of armed intervention, saying often that Pakistani forces were actually fighting for the rebel side near the border.

Pakistani officials and Western diplomats in Islamabad say that while Pakistani intelligence funnels weapons and cash to the rebels and provides military advice, the military have not got directly involved in the fighting.

■ Iran and Pakistan-based Afghan rebels today began talks in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar to iron out their differences about the composition of the consultative council and the future broad-based government in Kabul.

Smugglers arrested

SALHIYA: Detectives arrested five Iraqis — Kazem G., Hashem F., Hadi M., Ahmad A., and Turki A. for smuggling and trading in liquor. A number of whisky cases and two Kalashnikov rifles were found with them.

The detectives also seized two cars with fake Kuwaiti plate numbers, that were used by the smugglers. The smugglers were later referred to concerned authorities for further investigations.

DAY BY DAY

WE are not against any person moved in the recent reshuffle.

Some of these individuals were really enthusiastic towards their work irrespective of whether their input was good or otherwise. Nevertheless, the overall performance was good.

However, one poignant aspect of the reshuffle is the infusion of new blood which will positively contribute towards changes in the nature of work and improve work.

It is our earnest hope that all ministries carry out such reshuffle. Such a move will undoubtedly pave the way for streamlining and enhancing performance.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait amending commercial law to reactivate economy

By Jindraksha Porter
Arab Times staff

A MAJOR overhaul of Kuwait's commercial law is under way with 400 new provisions in the pipeline as Kuwait moves determinedly towards developing financial services and markets — the centrepiece of its economic recovery programme.

The amendment of the outdated, almost 30-year-old commercial law, now in the final stages of drafting, will change the

rules beyond recognition by opening up new avenues for business activity, said Dr Mohammed Al Sabah of the Higher Planning Council.

"It will be as good as a new commercial law," he said.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which canvassed the private sector opinion before devising the new rules, will soon present the draft to the Council of Ministers for final approval.

Although he did not have the full details

of the new law Al Sabah said it provides for the setting up of real estate and investment mutual funds. There are also provisions to upgrade the role of the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

"The stock market is not playing its role it should. Instead of generating capital it is merely a venue where assets change hands," said Al Sabah.

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1989

Feud between India, Nepal worsens

Delhi closes border crossings

KATHMANDU, May 21, (Reuters): Oil-starved Nepal is burning forests for fuel but says it will stand its ground in its worsening feud with India.

Nepal has suffered severe shortages of fuel and other goods since India closed 13 of 15 border crossings after trade and transit treaties expired in late March.

The fuel crisis is pushing the landlocked country, one of the 10

poorest in the world, closer to economic collapse Western diplomats say.

Nepal's Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan said Nepal would stand its ground to maintain "national sovereignty which cannot be compromised."

"I think we will need a cooling off period for some time," one senior Indian diplomat said.

"When relations hit bottom, there's no point in going to a summit," the Nepal government reported.

Nepal and Indian officials say privately they do not see a quick end to what is becoming an increasingly acrimonious dispute between the predominantly Hindu neighbours.

"I don't know how long it will take to normalise supplies, probably a few months, but we can manage after that," he said.

ment's chief spokesman, Rahde Shyam Bista said in an interview. The two sides clashed last week at a meeting of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement in Zimbabwe.

Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh told Nepal that "it should stop trying to internationalise the issue," if it wants to have a dialogue, Indian news agencies reported.

Nepal's Foreign Minister S.K. Upadhyaya in a speech to the meeting complained Nepal was having troubled relations with India because it was trying to pursue a non-aligned policy.

Most observers agree the dispute is not so much about trade but about Nepal's efforts to maintain an even-handed policy toward its giant neighbours, China and India.



Riot police protect (right) a defence lawyer from the wrath of mass poisoning survivors, as one of them is taken to hospital (left) after she fainted.

Court verdict angers survivors of food poisoning

MADRID, May 21, (Reuters): A Spanish court has enraged survivors of a mass food poisoning, acquitting most of 37 people accused of selling lethal cooking oil and handing out what the survivors saw as lenient prison sentences to the others.

Lawyers acting for the survivors and relatives of victims of the 1981 tragedy, in which up to 650 people died and 25,000 were maimed, said they would appeal to the Supreme Court against the verdict.

The verdict of the three-judge court, read out in Madrid yesterday, ended a trial which lasted 15 months and was dubbed "the trial of the century" in Spain.

"It's incomprehensible," lawyer Francisca Saucillo said of the verdict. "It's a pretty benign sentence."

Some of the emaciated, deformed and crippled survivors who packed a Madrid music hall to hear the verdict broke down

in tears at the end of the seven-hour reading.

Others shouted abuse at the judges and their lawyers, and hurled stones at riot police and at a bus taking defendants away. Police fired several blank shots to disperse them.

The court jailed three oil merchants for 20, 12 and 10 years. It gave 10 others prison sentences ranging from two months to four years and acquitted the other 24

accused.

State prosecutor Eduardo Fungairino had requested prison sentences of more than 60,000 years against eight defendants — although 30 years is the maximum that can be served under Spanish law — and lesser terms against another 19.

"They (the survivors') reaction is very understandable, very human," Fungairino told reporters. "The verdict is not bad but it could have been better."

Many houses set on fire

Tribal rebels kill 10 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 21, (Reuters): Tribal rebels gunned down 10 settlers and razed houses in raids yesterday on two villages in deep jungle in southern Bangladesh, officials said today.

They said some 10 members of the outlawed "Shanti Bahini" (Peace Force) burst into Thanchi village in Chittagong Hill Tracts and sprayed their victims with bullets.

The rebels then set fire to thatched houses before returning to their sanctuary across the

border, the officials said.

The attack came after the government extended an amnesty deadline for the Shantis to surrender ahead of a rural district council election in the area.

The amnesty was announced by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on April 20. He said those who surrendered with their arms would be given land, funding for business and

the chance to contest elections to district councils.

The Shantis, who took up arms in 1973 to seek autonomy for the 5,500 square miles (14,200 sq km) of rugged hills and dense forests, rebuffed the offer as not enough.

They also want the expulsion of 300,000 Bengali settlers they accuse of stealing their land and destroying their culture.

Sinhalese truce holds: 11 die in Tamil violence

COLOMBO, May 21, (AP): Tamil violence claimed 11 more lives in the last 24 hours, but a unilateral ceasefire declared by Sinhalese extremists appeared to be holding, officials said yesterday.

The latest victims included four members of the Indian peacekeeping force, two Tamil Tiger guerrillas and one member of a rival Tamil group. In addition, the bodies of four people, including an infant, were found by Indian soldiers.

The killings occurred in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where most of the country's Tamil ethnic minority lives.

In central and southern Sri Lanka, heartland of the Sinhalese majority, the People's Liberation Front held its fire, Sri Lankan military authorities reported.

The front, composed of ultranationalist Sinhalese, on Friday declared a three-day ceasefire against the Sinhalese-dominated government in honour of the weekend Vesak festival, which celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha.

Although Sri Lanka's ethnic warfare evolved from tensions between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority, armed groups from the two communities rarely fight each other any more.

The Tamil militants, whose six-year-old separatist war has claimed 9,000 lives, usually attack each other, Sinhalese and Muslim civilians and Indian soldiers.

In addition, the People's Liberation Front has killed 3,500 fellow Sinhalese who serve or support the government, officials say.

Rogachev to brief Rajiv

NEW DELHI, May 21, (KUNA): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is departing his Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ryzhakov to India to brief Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the just concluded Sino-Soviet talks.

Igor will brief Indian leaders outcome of Gorbachev's talks with Chinese leaders particularly Deng Xiaoping.

India has earlier welcomed normalisation of relations between the two countries and described it as a landmark event.

Some 300 student protesters distributed leaflets demanding the resignation of

11 Britons expelled in tit-for-tat move

UK-Soviet spy row erupts

MOSCOW, May 21, (Agencies): Moscow ordered 11 Britons to leave the Soviet Union as a fresh espionage row erupted over the weekend, dealing a sudden blow to relations which Britain said had been flourishing.

The British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Rodric Braithwaite, said the Soviet Union was expelling the Foreign Office on Friday.

"I was called in last night by First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Kovalev and told that the Russians were expelling 11 members of the British community," Braithwaite told a news briefing for British journalists at the embassy.

A further three diplomats, who had already left the country, had been declared persona non grata, he said.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists had been ordered out and that three other Soviet officials currently out of the country would not be allowed back.

"This is particularly regrettable at a moment when Anglo-Soviet relations were better than at any time in the past," the spokesman said, adding that the Soviet officials had been involved in "activities incompatible with their status."

The term, diplomatic parlance for spying, was used by Britain in 1983 in a row which sparked off a series of expulsions. Thirty-one people from either side were ordered out.

Britain's expulsion of 11 Soviet citizens follows charges that the KGB is stepping up espionage after the blow it suffered with the 1983 defection of its top London agent.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe gave notice of a new hard line at a Munich defence forum four months ago. Despite the warmer climate of East-West relations, he said, KGB intelligence and its military GRU counterpart posed a renewed danger.

The Foreign Office spokesman refused to say if Britain was considering retaliatory expulsions on this occasion. "Let's take this one stage at a time. We are where we are and let's look at it that way," he said.

In the past, Moscow usually responded to expulsions of its officials by ordering out a lower number of officials from the country in question. But under Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev Soviet policy has been to reciprocate man for man.

If there are any further expulsions from London, the Soviet Union will be almost certain to respond in kind.

Braithwaite said the Soviet move was without "objective justification" but suggested Britain was anxious to avoid the development of a major row in relations with Moscow.

"We do not think this is in accordance with the way the relationship has been developing between the two countries and we have no desire that it should affect wider political relations," he told the briefing.

He named the three British journalists, whom he had informed earlier today, as Angus Roxburgh of the Sunday Times, Ian Glover-James of Independent Television News and Jeremy Harris of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The eight diplomats were Second Secretary Michael Anderson, Naval Attaché Capt Christopher Meyer, Second Secretary Adam Noble, Vice-Consul Helen Pickering, Warrant Officer Laing Purifit, Assistant Naval Attaché Lieutenant-Commander Christopher Watson, Third Secretary Paul Sharp, and Assistant Military Attaché Nigel Shakespeare.

All three journalists expressed deep disappointment at the Soviet decision while the diplomats refrained from comment.

Roxburgh said he and other journalists were informed by Braithwaite at an 11 am meeting at the embassy today that the Kremlin had ordered them and the eight diplomats to leave "because we had engaged in incomprehensible activities."

"Needless to say, I find the accusation ludicrous, almost too silly to comment on," Roxburgh said in a telephone interview.

Andrew Neil, editor of the Sunday Times, said Roxburgh and the other British journalists ordered expelled were being used as "political pawns."

The expulsions came only six weeks after Gorbachev's visit to London, which was marked by British praise for his "perestroika" or restructuring reform programme and mutual expressions of warmth.

Trains crash, explode

13 homes destroyed

MOSCOW, May 21, (Reuters): Two trains crashed while approaching a station in Soviet Kazakhstan, causing a fire and explosion which destroyed 13 houses and killed a number of people, Tass news agency reported today.

The report did not say how many people died in the disaster yesterday at Alma-Ata-2 station, in the capital of the Central Asian republic.

It said a government commission was investigating and clean-up operations were underway.

The accident happened as the two trains, one of them carrying propane, were switching tracks.

"A fire which broke out led to an explosion," Tass said.

"Thirteen individual residential buildings were destroyed."

No further details were given. There have been a number of serious accidents on the Soviet railways in the past year. The most serious occurred last June when 91 people died after a train loaded with explosives crashed east of Moscow.

Ten people were killed when fire broke out on a train travelling south from Moscow through Kazakhstan last November.

In October four people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured when a switching yard error in the industrial city of Sverdlovsk sent a train packed with explosives crashing into a coal train.



Protest

Angry Georgians met on Saturday night in central Moscow to mark the end of 40 days mourning for the 20 people killed in violent April demonstrations in the Georgian capital Tbilisi. (Reuter wirephoto)

Japan's ruling party faces disintegration

Farmers shifting away

TOKYO, May 21, (Agencies): Japan's ruling party is grappling not only with a messy financial scandal but also with the disintegration of an electoral base which ensured its victory in every national vote since 1955, political analysts say.

It has taken a major crisis like the Recruit scandal, over which Prime Minister Noboru Takei said he will resign, to force the Liberal Democratic Party to think seriously about reforms to maintain its monopoly on power.

Over the decades the party has largely based itself on voter support from conservative farming areas and contributions from big business.

"But this has contained traditions in itself," Michitomo Takabatake, politics professor at Rikkyo University, said.

"By promoting big business and accumulating trade surpluses, the LDP was forced to open up agricultural markets, which has angered the farmers."

Farmers have now started to shift away from the LDP as the country's agricultural markets are liberalised one after another under pressure from the United States. Now they fear the rice market, their last fortress, is next in line.

Some agricultural cooperatives, firm supporters of the LDP in the past, announced recently they would not support

the party at the upper house election expected in August.

On the other side of the fence, big business is frustrated with the apparent inability of the LDP government to deal with worsening trade friction resulting from years of rapid and officially-promoted export growth.

Industries are also becoming more cautious about political donations. The Recruit contribution-for-favours scandal has called into doubt the entire system by which funds flow from companies to the coffers of the LDP.

"The foundation of the LDP is crumbling both from the top and the bottom," said Toshihiko Hara, associate professor of sociology at Tokai University in Hokkaido.

Japan's second largest opposition party elected a new chairman today to succeed the party leader who resigned over an influence-peddling scandal.

"I will sacrifice to fight to make the Komeito (clean government party's) once more a party that is clean and trustworthy," the new leader, Koshiro Ishida, told a special party convention.

Ishida, 58, who had served as one of four party vice chairmen, was elected to succeed Tae-han Yano, who resigned last week when prosecutors began formal questioning of a Komeito members of Parliament.

would be peaceful and attended by about 1,000 people, but police banned the gathering, saying Taehakno, the site of the proposed rally, was a busy downtown street.

Blocked from going to the rally site, the students staged street demonstrations on nearby streets, shouting "revive Lee Chol-kyu."

Half of the protesters lay down on a main street and kept chanting their slogans. About 200 police stepped in and arrested them.

150 South Korean dissident demonstrators detained

SEOUL, May 21, (UPI): Police arrested some 150 people yesterday, thwarting a mass rally by dissidents demanding the resignation of President Roh Tae-woo.

The rally, sponsored by the National Democratic Alliance of Korea, an influential dissident group, was part of a programme marking the ninth anniversary of the May 1980 civil uprising in Kwangju in which 200 protesters died.

Some 300 student protesters distributed leaflets demanding the resignation of

President Roh, whom they accused of being a "mastermind" of the bloody suppression of the Kwangju uprising.

The protesters also demanded the truth about the death of Lee Chol-kyu, 24, a dissident student whose body was found May 10 in a reservoir in Kwangju, 170 miles (275 km) south of Seoul. Dissidents have disputed an official announcement that the youth drowned.

The organisers had sought government approval for the gathering, which they said

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INTERNATIONAL

Kinski shines at Cannes film festival

CANNES, France, May 21, (UPI): Nastja Kinski brightened up a lull in the 42nd Cannes Film Festival yesterday with her performance in the romantic "Torments of Spring" that Polish Director Jerzy Skolimowsky adapted from a novel of the same name by Russian author Ivan Turgenev.

Timothy Hutton co-stars in the movie as Sanin, an aristocrat who falls in love with Gemma Rosselli, a pastry cook from

Maintz. Gemma is engaged to a pompous and blundering suitor, Herr Kluber, but Sanin decides to propose to her as well.

Enter Kinski, who arrives on the scene as Countess Maria Polozov, the wife of an old friend of Sanin. She invites him to Weisbaden, where he falls for her beauty and sophistication. Sanin decides not to make an impossible choice but to leave it to fate to decide.

"Turgenev had just turned 50 when he

wrote this story," Skolimowsky explains. "He was looking back nostalgically at his lost, crazy, youthful days. It was easy for me, at the same age, to identify."

Skolimowsky said Kinski was ideal for the role. "She is unpredictable. She has a raw sort of sophistication. She fuses a child's naivete with a woman's frivolity and never falls into the trap of playing the femme fatale."

Of Hutton, the Polish director said:

"The role of Sanin calls for someone who can combine innocence, naivete and romanticism. It is very difficult to find American actors who are not too American and who fulfil these three criteria."

Critics said the movie is unlikely to take many prizes in the competition, in which more original films already have become favourites for Tuesday's finale.



Kinski: unpredictable



Sick blessed

Mother Teresa of Calcutta reaches for a child in the crowd as hundreds of the sick and injured gather around her to receive her blessing during an interfaith prayer service in Denver on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

New Bible lacking 'male bias' endorsed

ATLANTA, May 21, (Reuter): A new, modern language Bible that eliminates the English "male bias" of past scripture texts has been authorised by major US churches.

The National Council of Churches, whose 32 denominations have 40 million members, gave unanimous backing for a new Bible planned for publication next year in the United States and Britain, council spokeswoman Carol Fouke said yesterday.

Bruce Metzger, a Princeton University New

Testament scholar who headed the 15-year-old project, said Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish scholars saw a male bias in the English language not present in the ancient languages in which Bible texts were originally written.

The "new revised standard version" Bible, drafted by a 30-member panel of scholars, edits out such phrases like "Man shall not live by bread alone" or Jesus's admonition to his followers, "Oh men of little faith."

Arts and Letters gave awards, fellowships and scholarships to 43 artists, writers and composers.

The group presented its award for distinguished service to the arts to Vartan Gregorian, former president of the New York public library.

Author Alfred Kazin, reading the citation for the gold award to singer, who was not present, said the 84-year-old writer had "become a magnet to an audience crossing all boundaries." (AP)

BERLIN: The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra has put off until at least June a decision on who should replace Herbert von Karajan, its internationally acclaimed former conductor, officials said Saturday.

The 81-year-old Karajan resigned in April, citing health problems for his decision to quit the post he had held for more than three decades.

In a statement, Philharmonic officials said orchestra officials and members on Saturday had delayed a decision on who should replace Karajan until June. (AP)

MEXICO CITY: The body of the man police say was the leader of a cult linked to 15 slayings on the US border was transported from Mexico to Miami, newspapers reported Saturday.

News reports said that the body of Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, 26, left Mexico on a Friday commercial flight bound for Miami. The reports said that Alfred H. Neal, a US consular official, claimed the body on behalf of Constanzo's mother, Aurora Gonzales del Valle of Miami.

Neal could not be reached for comment Saturday by the Associated Press.

MEXICO CITY: The Mexican government has seized more than 14.5 tons of marijuana and more than a ton of cocaine on Mexico's highways so far this year, a government newspaper reported Saturday.

The government daily newspaper El Nacional reported that the highway police arrested 398 suspects along with the seizures in various accidents.

El Nacional said that authorities also found 14 pounds (6.3 kg) of opium paste and small quantities of crack, a highly potent form of cocaine that can be smoked. (AP)

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil: Thieves broke into a modern art gallery in South America's largest city and stole two rare Picasso works each valued at more than \$50,000, a gallery director said Saturday.

Heracio Peixoto, director of the Association of Friends of Modern Art, said thieves broke into a small gallery in downtown Sao Paulo, the continent's largest city, early Friday morning. He said they stole an etching and a ceramic figure by Pablo Picasso from an 80-piece collection of 20th century art. (AP)

ST. MICHAEL, Maryland: Donald Hiss, who with his brother Alger was accused of being part of a Washington espionage ring in the 1940s, has died of lung cancer. He was 82.

Hiss died Thursday at his home here.

Hiss retired 13 years ago from the Washington law firm of Covington and Burling, which he joined in 1945 after holding posts in the federal government.

In 1943, Donald and Alger Hiss were identified as spies in testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee. (AP)

Mother's hug

Orangutan baby Rosa is hugged by its mother, Rosa was born in Hamburg on May 5 to mother Bela (25) from Sumatra. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Radner dies

Ovarian cancer

LOS ANGELES, May 21, (AP): Comedian Gilda Radner, who rose to stardom with her goofy characters died yesterday of cancer, a hospital official said. She was 42.

Miss Radner, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer about 2 1/2 years ago, died in her sleep about 6:20 am at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, said hospital spokesman Ron Wise. Her husband of five years, actor-filmmaker Gene Wilder, was at her side.

Miss Radner rose to stardom on the US television variety show "Saturday Night Live," which premiered in 1975. She created such characters as the scatterbrained broadcaster Roseanne Roseannadanna, whose catch phrase, "It's Always Something," became the title of a book she wrote detailing her fight with cancer.

Besides the nasal-voiced TV news commentator, she also created the Baba Wawa character, a spoof of American television journalist Barbara Walters, as well as nerdy teen-ager Linda Lubner and the dowdy Emily Litella, who delivered misguided opinion pieces winding up with the phrase "never mind".

She was rewarded with an Emmy Award for outstanding performance by an actress in a variety series.

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Defence dialect decoded

Lingo logic

WASHINGTON, May 21, (AP): The mushroom cloud is not the latest in French cuisine and Fort Fumble is not one of the US bases slated to be closed next year.

Both are examples of US Defence Department lingo—the pinnacle of bureaucratic jargon used by the men and women responsible for US national security.

Fort Fumble, the Fudge Factory and the five-sided Wailing Wall are nicknames for the Pentagon used more or less affectionately by the 23,000 people who work in the Washington headquarters of all the US Armed Forces.

Jargon may be the most distinguishing feature of the vast building, erected in the early months of World War II in a style known as "early ugly." But on closer inspection, Pentagon terminology resembles that of other big bureaucracies.

As in any bureaucracy, Pentagon workers who haven't learned the lingo risk the mushroom treatment—defined by author Perry Smith as being kept in the dark and fed on manure.

The retired Air Force Maj Gen in his book "Assignment Pentagon" has compiled a glossary not only of US Defence Department gobbledegook, but of the acronyms that the military uses, in Smith's words, as a "shortcuts language" for defence issues.

BMEWS (pronounced bemuse), for example, is not a verb meaning to plunge into thought, but is the nation's ballistic missile early warning system. GWEN is not a woman's name, but the ground wave emergency network.

MERV and SAM are deadly multiple independently targeted

re-entry vehicles and surface-to-air missiles. JSTARS is not a breakfast cereal but the joint surveillance target attack radar system.

MAD is already familiar as mutual assured destruction. MOA and MOU are more recent additions meaning a memorandum of agreement and a memorandum of understanding.

POLS is not the shorthand for politicians, but petroleum, oil and lubricants. SLEP is not Yiddish meaning "to carry," but the surface life extension programme for aircraft carriers.

Warmaps are not what they seem, but rather wartime manpower planning systems. And WTVD is "western theatre voynichniy deistvi," a combined English and Russian language acronym for the Western theatre of military operations, or the European front.

The glossary includes these other terms:

■ Above my pay grade: perhaps the most commonly heard expression along the 13 1/2 miles (21.7 kilometres) of Pentagon corridors. It means, "go ask someone more important."

■ Analysis paralysis: what happens when you study excessively.

■ Bears: big bosses, "feeding the bears" means giving information to senior commanders.

■ Bedbug letter: an effusive, non-responsive answer to complain, similar to one from the president of a motel who never mentions the bedbugs in his letter of apology.

■ BFO: a blazing flash of the obvious.

■ Elephants: another word for big bosses, as in, "let's solve this before the elephants get involved."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mudslides kill 58

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, May 21, (AP): Three days of rain-triggered mudslides have killed 58 people and left more than 3,500 others homeless in the northeastern city of Salvador, rescue officials said yesterday.

Rescue teams yesterday identified 21 more victims who drowned in flood waters or were buried in mudslides in this coastal city of 1.8 million people, Civil Defence spokeswoman Emilia Vasconcelos said by telephone from the region.

Mrs. Vasconcelos said two couples were found smothered in their cars after a hill collapsed and swamped a nearby motel and a row of homes Friday morning in the city's Loba district.

The hillsides gave way from the drenching rain, releasing a wave of mud that burst through a concrete wall alongside the hotel, crushed a row of homes and smothered the cars, she said.

Candidate barred

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, May 21, (Reuter): Authorities in Yugoslavia's central republic Bosnia-Herzegovina have barred a leading candidate from a race for the Yugoslav state presidency, accusing him of links with foreign intelligence services.

The Bosnian Socialist Alliance, a Communist front organization which screens all candidates, has declared Nenad Kecmanovic unfit to hold the Bosnian post in the eight-member presidency, the Belgrade newspaper Politika said today.

Congress sought

SZEGED, Hungary, May 21, (Reuter): Reforms emerging as a radical force within Hungary's ruling Communist party called today for a full party congress this year to agree a national crisis programme and elect "credible leaders."

They also declared former premier Imre Nagy, executed after the Soviet Union put down Hungary's 1956 uprising, was the victim of a show trial.

They demanded a party statement to this effect before Nagy's re-burial on June 16 and called for urgent talks with opposition groups on guiding Hungary back to multi-party democracy.

Launch delayed

CANAVAN, May 21, (Reuter): The launch of an unmanned Delta-2 rocket carrying an advanced military guidance satellite was postponed for 24 hours yesterday because of dangerous high altitude winds, a US Air Force spokesman said.

The Air Force scheduled the next launch attempt for 7:51 pm (2351 GMT) flight is to deploy a \$65 million dollar Navstar global positioning system satellite for use by US military forces and NATO allies.

Somalis arrested

NAIROBI, May 21, (Reuter): Police raided houses, hotels, shops and mosques yesterday in a day-long check on aliens, apparently directed mainly at ethnic Somalis, officials said.

Kenyan Somali leaders said 300 worshippers, mainly Somalis, were arrested when police surrounded a mosque in the Eastleigh suburb. They said most were released after their identity papers and fingerprints were checked, but an unknown number were still in custody today.

The Sunday Times, organ of the ruling Kama Party, reported that at least 500 people had been caught in a "major assault on crime."

Troops to be cut

WINDHOEK, May 21, (Reuter): South Africa will cut its troop numbers in Namibia ahead of a schedule set by the United Nations, for the territory's independence, the officer commanding Pretoria's forces said today.

The UN plan was thrown into disarray when guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) infiltrated Namibia from neighbouring Angola hours after the independence process was launched on April 11.

But the plan was back on track after a meeting in Angola on Friday between officials from South Africa, Angola and Cuba.

Launch planned

CHANDIPUR-ON-SEA, India, May 21, (Reuter): India is to make a third attempt tomorrow to launch its long-range Agni (fire) missile from a make-shift launch pad in this seaside town on the east coast.

Two previous attempts on April 19 and May 16 were aborted because of technical problems seconds before the blast-off.

About 15,000 people living in a 3.5-km (two-mile) danger zone around the launch site are being moved out of their homes to temporary shelters outside the town.

Curfew will end

BELGRADE, May 21, (Reuter): Authorities in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province have decided to lift a curfew imposed in March after ethnic Albanian riots in which at least 24 people were killed, Tanjug News Agency said today.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed in Kosovo on March 27 was later eased to last from 10.30 pm to 5 am and will be completely lifted tomorrow, it said.

Yugoslavia sent tanks and troops to Kosovo on March 27 and a state of emergency was declared there to curb the ethnic Albanian unrest.

White extremists show sympathy for S. African mass killer

JOHANNESBURG, May 21, (Reuter): White extremist South Africans have appeared in the public gallery of a Pretoria court to show their sympathy for an ex-policeman convicted of murdering seven black people in a shooting rampage.

The Supreme Court is expected to pronounce sentence this week on Barred Strydom, 23, who has said he killed because he felt that blacks threatened the existence of minority whites.

He has also been convicted of murdering

Panamanian opposition leaders take to streets

Ban on meetings defied

PANAMA CITY, Panama, May 21, (AP): Panama's three top opposition leaders have made their first public appearance since they were beaten with iron bars by a paramilitary group after the government nullified recent elections.

Opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and his vice-presidential candidates, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, defied a government ban on street activism yesterday to salute cheering crowds at several markets.

Independent observers say the opposition candidates trounced the hand-picked candidates of Panama's de facto ruler, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, in the May 7 elections. But three days later, the government nullified the elections because of what it called vote fraud and foreign interference.

On May 10, the day the elections were annulled, a paramilitary group attacked the three opposition candidates during a protest march, beating them with iron bars.

Yesterday, the government prohibited "marches, meetings, public demonstrations or caravans of vehicles" by any political organisation until at least June 5.

"The prohibition does not have any meaning to us," Endara said later in the day, as he made his way through an outdoor market in San Miguelito on the eastern outskirts of Panama City.

The stop was one of six made by an opposition caravan of about 20 vehicles that travelled through the city.

Ford said the caravan was intended "to reconstruct the confidence of the people in order to make another push" to oust Noriega.

The candidates also met with US Congressman John Murtha, who headed a delegation of election observers appointed by US President George Bush. The US delegation declared Endara had won the presidential election.

Before he left from Howard Air Force base, Murtha said he had flown to Panama yesterday morning to inspect conditions at US bases, confer with embassy officials and meet with the opposition and Archbishop Marcos McGrath, the Roman Catholic primate of Panama.

Murtha, a member of the US House Intelligence Committee, also issued a statement that was apparently intended as another signal to the Panamanian defence forces that an anti-Noriega coup would be welcome.

Bush "is not interested in punishing the PDF," said Murtha. "He is interested in dealing with the PDF. The target of our dismay is the leader of the PDF, Noriega."

Opposition and US officials have several times issued calls for the defence forces to topple Noriega, but so far there is no sign of a break in military discipline.

The opposition candidates toured the city in the morning and evening. Their caravan briefly blocked traffic on some major arteries leading into the capital.

Ford said the caravan was intended "to reconstruct the confidence of the people in order to make another push" to oust Noriega.



Endara (right) is embraced by one of his supporters. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bush proposes SNF compromise

Mitterrand backs US

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, May 21, (Agencies): US President George Bush, trying to heal a NATO rift before alliance leaders meet next week, awaited West Germany's response to a US offer that would delay new short-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

West Germany has led a challenge to the US stance on the missiles, straining relations as NATO nears its 40th anniversary.

"I believe in a deliberate, step-by-step approach to East-West relations," Bush said in a commencement address at Boston University, "because recurring signs show that while change in

the Soviet Union is dramatic, it is not yet complete."

Under the proposal being considered in Bonn, the United States would abandon its call for modernisation of the Lance missile if West Germany dropped demands for early East-West talks on reducing short-range nuclear forces (SNF) in Europe.

Most of the US Lance missiles are based in West Germany.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told reporters as a smiling Secretary of State James Baker looked on:

"We definitely support them," Dumas told reporters as a smiling Secretary of State James Baker looked on.

Baker said: "The two Presidents stressed the absolute need to maintain nuclear deterrence in Europe and that we should concentrate now on conventional force reductions."

The United States and Britain insist that the Soviet Union needs to reduce the size of its conventional forces in Eastern Europe before SNF negotiations can begin.

They had also wanted work to begin soon on a new short-range missile for NATO.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has argued against any modernisation of current missiles, saying this would threaten the improved climate in East-West relations.

Baker said that under the offer he presented to Bonn last week, production and deployment of a new missile would be postponed until at least 1992.

"We have not as yet heard officially from the German government about whether or not the suggestions ... are acceptable," Baker said.

The US hoped Mitterrand's support for the plan would increase pressure on Bonn to approve the offer before the May 29-30 NATO summit in Brussels.

Mitterrand stayed at the 11-acre Bush family estate last night after the two leaders spent a day that mixed formal talks with a casual stroll through nearby woods.

Both Presidents were due to receive honorary degrees from Boston University.

Mitterrand indicated this week that he could play a useful role in settling the missile dispute by pressing his longtime friend, Kohl, not to push for early disarmament talks with the Soviet Union.

Financial disclosure statements, released as required by Senate rules, showed relatively modest wealth among the nine other Senate freshmen. Virtually all of them have devoted their careers to local state, or congressional service or have had limited business careers.

Kohl, 54, who wows professional basketball's Bucks, is one of the richest senators overall, listing assets of at least \$19 million in 1988. He reported his income last year as \$714,000.

During his 1988 bid for the seat of retiring Sen. William Proxmire, the millionaire campaigned on the theme, "Nobody's senator but yours." Kohl spent millions of dollars of his own money during the campaign.

Robb, 49, a former Democratic governor of Virginia, is married to Lynda Bird Johnson, who inherited significant wealth as the late President's eldest daughter. The disclosure showed extensive holdings in property and stocks in Texas and overall listed assets at between \$4.4 million and \$11.7 million.

Kohl, Robb only freshmen millionaires in '89 Senate

WASHINGTON, May 21, (UPI): Herbert Kohl, the owner of the basketball team Milwaukee Bucks, and Charles Robb, who inherited great wealth as the son-in-law of President Lyndon Johnson, are the only freshman millionaires in the 1989 Senate class, records disclosed on Friday.

Financial disclosure statements, released as required by Senate rules, showed relatively modest wealth among the nine other Senate freshmen. Virtually all of them have devoted their careers to local state, or congressional service or have had limited business careers.

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White extremists show sympathy for S. African mass killer

A black woman in a squatter camp, an act described as practice for the methodical point-blank shooting he carried out a week later in downtown Pretoria, and of attempting to murder 16 other people.

Prosecutors said psychiatrists found that Strydom, a self-confessed supporter of neo-fascist groups, was sane at the time of the shootings last November. He can be sentenced to death.

The week-long hearing has monopolised newspaper front pages, with the

relaxed-looking Strydom describing black people as a "global enemy" and telling the court he would repeat his actions if he received a suspended sentence.

In answer to a judge who asked him why he chose to kill an old black woman during his rampage, he replied: "To my mind, they (blacks) are not people. They are not white ... Each black species threatens the continued existence of the Boer (Afrikaner) people because they multiply so quickly."

Monica Lekalakale, who was shot in the stomach during the 20-minute mid-afternoon rampage, told the weekly Mail newspaper: "Afterwards I was frightened to walk in the streets ... I was frightened of white people."

Almost all sections of society have expressed shock at the killings, but some people in court last week indicated that they felt at least a measure of sympathy for Strydom.

One of Suzman's roles has been that of prophet. In 1966, ten years before an uprising by Soweto schoolchildren ushered in an era of black unrest, she said: "The racial grievances we are apparently ready to bequeath to our children are shocking to contemplate forever."

In 1981, referring to the unrest, she said: "If it gets really bad, the government might suspend the law and rule by edict." In 1986, Botha imposed a national state of emergency that remains in force.

Suzman predicted last week that blacks eventually will gain political rights and that remaining segregation laws will "waste away" or be repealed, "though, alas, I will not be here to welcome their disappearance."

Militants in later years urged her to quit, saying a Parliament which excluded blacks was no place for a genuine foe of apartheid.

But she is convinced that she played a vital role by "keeping certain values alive."

5 held in Sweden for bomb attacks

STOCKHOLM, May 21, (Reuter): A series of arrests in Sweden of men of Arab origin suspected of attacks appear to be part of an international police effort to find the group which blew up a Pan Am jet last December, killing 270 people.

Swedish courts yesterday remanded in custody five men suspected of a series of bomb attacks and planned attacks in 1985 and 1986. Police said they were linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC).

The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has said it believes the group planted the bomb which blew up the Pan Am airliner over the Scottish village of Lockerbie.

The Swedish suspects were remanded "with probable cause" suspected of bombing the Copenhagen and Stockholm offices of US airline Northwest Orient in 1985 and 1986. One person died and 20 were injured in the Copenhagen attack in May 1985.

The men are also suspected of planning to bomb the offices in Copenhagen and Amsterdam of Israel's El Al airline. Their lawyers told reporters they denied the charges.

Three of the men are also suspected of robbing a Stockholm post office earlier this month and making off with 240,000 crowns (\$37,000).

A source with knowledge of the international Lockerbie investigation said one of those arrested had been spotted at an apartment raided by West German police last November.

The flat belonged to Hadi Dalkamouni, said by a West German federal prosecutor to be security and foreign section chief of the Damascus-based PFLP-GC.

Police said at the time they had found arms, explosives and a bomb including five kg (11 pounds) of the explosive Semtex

— the type used in the Lockerbie bombing. They also found three radio cassette players similar to the one used to blow up the Pan Am airliner.

Swedish police have been concerned that Sweden was providing a refuge for Middle East commandos since last summer, when they discovered that a top official in the Palestinian Abu Nidal group had been living here for several years under an assumed name, married to a Finnish woman.

DAMASCUS, May 21, (AP): Back in 1963, a legislator of the governing National Party said of Helen Suzman, who single-handedly represented the anti-apartheid opposition: "Her days in parliament are numbered."

The would-be prophet, Cas Greylings, has since left Parliament, as he did not have one of his contemporaries — except the indomitable woman he derided. Her days in office number some 13,200 and will finally end with this term.

Last week, Suzman announced that she will not seek re-election in September, ending a 36-year parliamentary career. Few politicians anywhere have served so long, in opposition to such an entrenched ruling party, and fought so determinedly for their conviction.

For 13 of those years, from 1961 to 1974, she was the only Member of Parliament speaking out against apartheid and campaigning for black rights. During a 15-week session in 1961, she made 66 speeches, offered 26 amendments and submitted 137 questions to parliamentary leaders.

"I don't know how I made so many speeches," she said. "I wrote every one myself — that's why they were so long. They were not flowing speeches, but the contents have pleased me. When I look back at these speeches, I still think I have taken

MIDEAST

Lebanese cleverly beat blockade

Christians learn to fight 'war for survival'

JOUNIEH, Lebanon, May 21, (Reuters): The Lebanese soldiers in camouflage fatigues spotted an empty British Airways desk at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus, seized it and booked in their passengers.

Their flights Hel 905, 909 and 911, three Army helicopters evading a coastal blockade of Lebanon's Christian enclave, checked in about 40 passengers with almost an excess of levantine charm, enthusiasm and flexibility under pressure.

By ferry, fishing boat, hydrofoil, plane and helicopter, the Lebanese have adapted their natural skill at beating any system to poking holes in the blockade enforced by Syria and Syrian-backed gunners.

News headlines

Hajis arriving
JEDDAH, May 21, (AP): An Indian passenger vessel is to dock at Jeddah port today bringing the first batch of Muslim pilgrims for the upcoming pilgrimage season, port authorities said.

The vessel is transporting 1,127 Muslims from India, said the authorities.

More than a million Muslims converge from all over the world for the haj to Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina.

News story denied

RIYADH, May 21, (KUNA): The Saudi Defense and Aviation Ministry denied press reports that Saudi Arabia concluded arms agreements with China, Radio Riyadh reported today.

An official source at the ministry denied a press report by Kuwait daily Al Sayessah published here yesterday, that said that the kingdom and Syria signed three deals with China on purchasing land-to-land M-9 missiles and other Chinese ballistic missiles.

The report added that Saudi Arabia finances all three deals.

The Saudi source said that the report is absolutely baseless.

Ozal in Tunisia

ANKARA, May 21, (Reuters): Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left today for a three-day official visit to Tunisia.

Ozal, accompanied by businessmen and parliamentarians, will have talks with Prime Minister Hedi Bacouche and is expected to meet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, officials said.

They said there were no problems in relations between Turkey and Tunisia, part of the Ottoman Empire between 1574 and 1831.

The two sides are likely to discuss boosting trade and sea transport. Turkey mainly exports steel bars and food and buys phosphates, chemicals and leather from Tunisia.

Smugglers hanged

NICOSIA, May 21, (Reuters): Fifteen drug smugglers were hanged in public in the Iranian cities of Mashhad and Chaharbar yesterday, Iran's news agency IRNA said.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said 491 traffickers had been executed since a tough new law went into force in January.

Fourteen of the 15 were hanged in Mashhad after being convicted for distributing 1,316 kg (1.3 tons) of narcotics, it said.

The agency also said that at least eight drug smugglers were killed and a tonne of drugs was set ablaze in a clash with troops near Zahedan in Sistan-Baluchestan province last Monday.

Message received

DAMASCUS, May 21, (KUNA): Syrian President Hafez Assad received a message today from his Iranian counterpart Ali Khamenei. The contents of the message was not officially disclosed.

The message was delivered by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who arrived here yesterday on a few days visit, in the presence of Syrian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasser Qaddour.

An official announcement said that discussions were about the Middle East region and other issues.

Officials agree

ISLAMABAD, May 21, (KUNA): Syria and Pakistan have agreed in principle to boost co-operation between them in a number of spheres, Pakistan National Assembly Speaker Malik Meraf Khalid said yesterday.

The national assembly speaker discussed industry, agriculture, education, information, culture and social welfare and barter trade with Syrian authorities.

Minister in UK

MANAMA, May 21, (KUNA): Bahraini Defence Minister and Deputy General Commander for Bahraini Defence Forces Sheikh Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa left here today for United Kingdom on an official visit, the Gulf News Agency reported.

Carpets seized

NICOSIA, May 21, (Reuters): Iran said yesterday it had pulled the rug out from under the country's biggest-ever carpet smuggling network.

The official news agency IRNA, quoting provincial authorities in Isfahan, said the gang handled priceless silk-woven carpets. It said authorities seized 80 bales of carpets about to be exported illegally by sea.

300,000 use drugs

AMMAN, May 21, (KUNA): There are about 300,000 people on drugs in Israel and 30,000 addicts, an Israeli report quoted a member of the Knesset, Shoshana Almozina, as saying.

The Knesset member who was former health minister said that Israeli police reports confirmed the estimates.

The aim of the eight-week blockade is to stop fuel and weapons reaching the enclave, from which Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun launched a campaign in March to force Syria's 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

"The pressure on the enclave is increasing," said a Western diplomat in Beirut. "Shipments are getting through but are a fraction of what is needed for more than half a million people."

The Arab summit opening in Casablanca next Tuesday will discuss Lebanon's crisis. But few in Beirut believe the Arab League can end Aoun's standoff with the Syrians and their Lebanese militia allies.

"We are putting all our hope in the Arab League. But at the same time this is Lebanon where everything has a price and we will pay that price if there is a blockade," said a Christian banker.

"It is simply a war for survival now. It is make or break."

The makeshift ways of running the blockade demonstrate the desperation as well as the resilience and inventiveness of the Lebanese.

Security sources said some weapons, ammunition and fuel were smuggled into Lebanon at night on small, fast boats

despite daily sporadic shelling of Christian-held ports.

Passengers and containers full of goods, ranging from food to cosmetics and industrial machinery, follow roughly the same route as military supplies and face dangers, they said.

The Army helicopters proved to be the easiest and safest way to avoid the blockade of shells.

The Cypriot security men and women who usually hand-search each passenger for weapons, drugs or foreign currency were absent as the Lebanese swept past to the departure gate.

Assad may not attend summit

US sceptical



Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat Abdel Meguid receiving the traditional Moroccan greeting, mint tea, on his arrival in Casablanca.

for moderate Arabs to appreciate the Israeli peace initiative and work on it seriously," he said.

The US preparation coincides with US preparations for a new dialogue with the PLO and Israeli proposals for a four-point peace initiative to ease tensions with Palestinians waging a 17-month-old uprising.

Morocco's King Hassan called the meeting to rally support for the policies of the PLO and to strengthen the hand of its chairman, Yasser Arafat, in talks with Washington.

Some American analysts say Egypt may not win full league membership but they emphasize Cairo's increasing role in Arab affairs, including a proposed Arab arms industry.

The US is also looking to the summit to support Arab League efforts for a ceasefire in Lebanon and deployment of Arab ceasefire monitors to Beirut, the US official said.

"This would make it harder

The US State Department would also be delighted if the summit recognised Israel's right to exist and endorsed Palestinian election in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But officials and analysts do not expect such dramatic moves.

Meanwhile, press reports in Kuwait said Mubarak and Assad will meet on the second day of the summit.

A Kuwaiti daily quoted Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources as saying that Assad will propose to Mubarak Syrian mediation to end Egyptian-Libyan misunderstanding as a preliminary step to holding a summit meeting between Mubarak and Khaddafi.

Arab foreign ministers will meet today to set the agenda for the summit.

Before the meeting gets under way, Arab mediators will make a fresh attempt to enforce a ceasefire and deploy Arab observers in and around Beirut.

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Brigadier Fuad Musaed
Al Saleh

Reshuffle aid to development

New opportunities

INTERIOR Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday was quoted as saying that the reshuffle of key offices on Saturday aims at career developments, and further promotion, affirming that it was not directed against anyone.

The minister told daily 'Al Saya' in a statement published today that he has strong confidence in all the Interior Ministry employees' hard work.

He added that the reshuffle only aimed at giving everybody opportunities to try new ministry positions, adding that the development in the ministry is continuous and going ahead according to the set plan.

However, he said that he will not hesitate to punish negligence, as the security men's duty is to ensure stability and security for all.

The interior minister yesterday reshuffled top security officials.

He issued an executive order promoting Brigadier Naser Bader Al Bader as advisor to the minister of interior from his post as chief security official in the Governorate of Ahmadi.

Bader's replacement as Ahmadi's top security officer was Brigadier Fuad Musaed Al Saleh, director-general of the General Traffic Department, whose job is being taken over by Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajji, the director-general of Police and Emergency Communications.

The Immigration Department was being placed in the hands of Colonel Ahmed Mohammed Al Waheeb, succeeding Brigadier Khaled Al Munayes, who was appointed director of the Police Academy.

Local manufacture strictly scrutinised

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Commerce and Industry has established a modern centre equipped with the latest laboratory for testing of imported or locally manufactured items.

To highlight this issue a local daily toured the centre's laboratories and held interviews with some officials there.

The controller at the centre Sheikha Al Bader said that its establishment was aimed at ensuring that imported or local items conform to specifications.

This objective can only be realised with the provision of the necessary technology and laboratories.

She clarified that the setting up of standard specification requires to a great extent the necessary analysis and testing for different components of the related items in order to realise the necessary protection for the national economy.

The quality mark (MKK) is available at the centre and could be given to any person who would like to get his product certified. He added that the centre is ready to extend its services to the citizens particularly towards

making sure of the quality of the goods citizens intend to purchase. The centre charges a token fee only which does not exceed KD3.

The centre undertakes the arbitration process in case of any disputes between suppliers and the importers.

Likewise, the centre extends necessary help to the industrial companies for the using of the latest methods for the control of output quality, the official said.

He added that the centre is supervising the application of the compulsory specifications related to the items that enjoy customs protection, in addition to the testing of governmental procurements.

Meanwhile, the head of the textile laboratory Fawzia Al Kanani said that her lab is solely responsible in Kuwait for conducting physical tests of fabrics.

Apart from the textile laboratory, the centre contains another chemical laboratory, construction material, paints, electrical and electronic equipments laboratories and a material laboratory.

Civil defence

Volunteers gain useful experience

THE director of the Training Department at the General Civil Defence Department, Ministry of Interior Lieut Col Mullaq Abbas Munawer has said that volunteers trained in civil defence techniques should be able to put their training and experience to useful implementation in dealing with day to day events, such as road accidents, fires and environmental protection.

He told KUNA that all volunteers received good experience in how to protect the country and the people from all hazards in as much as their individual capabilities permitted them, stressing that the role played by the department was not any less important than the role played by any other government establishment.

He said it fell in line with the national civil defence strategy to broaden the scope of functions and tasks performed by the civil defence trainees, and also to set up fully-equipped related centres in various locations in the country's governorates.

He emphasised the importance of shelters as a necessary precaution against emergencies, and that a special committee had been set up from the department and Kuwait Municipality to perform a field survey of all existing basements in the commercial areas with a view to introducing the necessary adjustments and turning them into adequate sheltering facilities equipped with the necessary air-conditioning system, medical necessities, foodstuffs and communication facilities.

He pointed out that the first batch of volunteers successfully took all field training exercises and acquired adequate knowledge as to operation under simulated air-raids and emergency conditions showing satisfactory progress and good results.

He added that the department was considering to offer residents and citizens the chance to participate in the practical training exercises once the qualified team of instructors was available.

He added that the Ministry of Interior and that of Defence were planning to utilise the experience of a veteran army personnel in chemical warfare and military tactics and that a special memorandum had already been prepared to this effect.

Computers integral part of education

Public telephone service may be withdrawn

PUBLIC telephones provided by the Ministry of Communications may disappear soon, according to officials. The Ministry of Communications has started removing public telephones from ministries, establishments and markets.

Residents from different areas said that the public telephones started to vanish from expressways, markets and residential areas due to the ministry's negligence. They said that the ministry doesn't regularly maintain and follow up this vital

utility. Interviewed by a local daily, a large section of residents pointed out that most public telephones are out of order and that the ministry did not provide enough telephones to cover requirements.

They pointed out that the unnecessary use of this important utility by the public has directly affected its existence. They called upon putting stricter punishment on those vandalising public telephones which serve a large number of people.

They added that most public telephones are out of order and that they are unevenly distributed on roads and areas. They demanded more public telephones and the provision of the long distance dialling service.

One of the residents pointed that it is necessary to provide this type of utility at express roads due to the fact that it may save lives.

Noor Nasser said that some of the available serviceable public telephones

face a lot of pressure from residents. He added that he sometimes has to wait in a queue to make a call. He proposed that the ministry should continue to provide this utility with the use of coins as it was in the past, but added that constant developments and follow-up is crucial.

Mohammed Abbas pointed out that some of the public telephones are old and have been forgotten by the Ministry of Communications. He said that remote areas like Salim, Abdally and Wafra lack public telephones.

BAHRAM DIGEST

Arabs in advertising

A TOP Arab advertising executive called on advertising agencies, governments and universities to "bridge the gap" in training and educating more Arabs to work in the advertising industry.

Akram Mikras, president of Bahrain-based advertising agency Fortune Promoter, addressing 500 participants of Adresto Arabic II — the major congress of Arab advertising agencies — in Cairo on Thursday, appealed to "the academic world to come to terms with the technology of the advertising world" in order to train young Arabs to take key roles in the industry as account executives, copywriters, creative directors, marketing-data analysts and media planners.

Mikras deplored the lack of Arab talent in ad agencies today. "We know that we must absorb more and more educated Middle Easterners into our business," he said.

"However, we find that colleges and universities in the region sadly lack a curriculum to deal with the specialised requirements of the advertising industry."

The founder and president of the 21-year-old Middle East advertising agency expressed concern that "a part of the world with the oldest background in trade and marketing" will be "left out of this country's global network of advertising and marketing if urgent attention is not given to educating young Arabs in these fields. To encourage young talented students and staff, Mikras suggested setting up training programmes, granting scholarships, offering lectures, awards and student employment."

Underscoring that advertising agency officials set up a task force, Mikras proposed eight points where governments and schools could co-operate more with advertising agencies, thus recognising "the key role that an advertising agency can play" in the society and in the business world.

Proposals

1. Grant discounts to advertising agencies buying space or time in government controlled media.
2. Seek agency advice and counsel when government run up against negative factors.
3. Grant scholarship to students wishing to pursue a career in advertising.
4. Sponsor seminars and workshops to examine current issues in the advertising industry.
5. Develop university curricula to "truly prepare the odd man of the 90s for this job."
6. Invite communications specialists to lecture on practical experience in the ad agency.
7. Assign term papers and thesis on useful topics to the advertising industry.
8. Employ as professors and instructors, professionals from advertising agencies.

Special envelopes

ID renewal system for citizens changed

THE Public Authority for Civil Information has started distributing envelopes with special documents to Kuwait families for the exchange of the existing ID-cards, within the framework of a nation-wide programme to cover all areas.

Representatives from the Authority will carry out field visits to Kuwaiti families at their residences to deliver the envelopes from 4 to 8 pm.

The exchange process might last till the end of this year and the cards will be exchanged at no cost to the residents of Faiba, Kifan, Rawda, Odailiya, Khalidiya, Sulaihikat, Doha, Farajla, Farawayia, Jeeb Al Shiyukh, Andalus, Ardiya, Sabah Al Salem, Firdous and Sulaihika.

The authority has called on all people who receive the envelopes to complete the enclosed forms with the required data and to deposit the envelope in any of the many authority boxes located at co-operative societies within 15 days from the date of receipt.

The authority requested all citizens to comply fully with the instructions given on the

envelopes and provide the documents, photos and any other personal information required.

An official source at the authority said that citizens of 16 years of age and over will be required to fill out the forms to get new ID cards even if they had not completed these formalities previously. Citizens can collect their new ID cards at the offices designated for this purpose by the authority after 15 days from depositing the envelopes.

The sources added that residents of Farwaniya, Jahra and Ahmadia who received green envelopes will have to collect their ID cards from the Kids' Us office, and those in Hawalli and Kuwait City who received blue envelopes will have to collect their ID cards at Rihab Complex, Hawalli.

The source pointed out that the offices would receive visitors from 4.30 to 7.30 pm all days of the week excluding Thursday and official holidays.

The exchange process for the expatriates will be automatically processed as applicants seek extensions of expired ID cards, sources said.

WEATHER

NORMAL summer weather with moderate north-westerly winds may prevail at times. Status of sea: Moderate. Wind speed: 16 km. 11.48 pm. Low water: 6.35 km. 7.45 pm. Sunrise: 4.52 am. Sunset: 6.37 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 22°C 79°F. Ahmadi: 40°C 104°F. Faiba: 39°C 102°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 22°C 72°F. Ahmadi: 26°C 79°F. Faiba: 26°C 79°F. Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 43°C 109°F. Ahmadi: 41°C 104°F. Faiba: 41°C 106°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 17 per cent. Ahmadi: 20 per cent. Faiba: 31 per cent.

Many uses

COMPUTERS have become an integral aspect in the educational sector in Kuwait to adapt to the requirements of scientific and cultural advancements, according to the head of the Computer Unit at the Educational Researches Centre, Yusuf Al Enaisi.

Enaisi stated that the unit utilises modern and highly sophisticated computers according to international standards. The Educational Researches Centre is currently preparing a project which will be applied as a guide for Kuwaiti scientific qualifications. The project aims at storing and recovering data for master and doctorate certificates in Kuwait through the use of computers. The unit is provided with advanced computers in order to serve their purposes.

Symposiums

He pointed out that the Computer Unit includes several specialities which are attended to by a team of college graduates. He believes that men are more adequate to

work at the centre because they are more capable of working late hours and can better bear strenuous work.

The Computer Unit plays an effective role in providing data sorting and storing services. The unit is currently determining the best available educational computer programmes in the market. It participated in several symposiums and organised a number of training courses for researchers at the centre, the official said.

He added that computers should be utilised at kindergartens to encourage child education. Computers could be used as an attractive educational method for children, he added.

The centre has shortages of qualified staff and could use more researchers. Kuwaiti employees should work towards more productivity and should be motivated in computers, Enaisi said.

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Legal Clinic

What is the legal basis for employers who pay only 50 per cent of the indemnity to employees who resign?

If the worker resigns after more than five years, he is entitled to an indemnity equal to 15 days pay for each year for the first five years of service and one month's pay for each of the following years. Is this legally binding on every private sector employer?

John Kurien

Employees who resign are entitled to get only half the benefits under Article 54 of the labour law. No. 38, it applies to all private sector employees, except those specified in Article 2 of the same law, and is legally binding on all employers — companies, trading companies, banks, hotels, etc.

This is not applicable to employees specified in Article 2 of labour law, No. 38. It does not apply to government employees; contract labourers; temporary job holders; domestic servants; sailors and to factories or shops employing less than five employees.

* * *

I am particularly interested in indemnity benefits in case of voluntary resignation by employees in the private sector.

My understanding of the specific provision of the labour law is that, indemnity is halved if an employee resigns from his service for reasons other than those prescribed under Article 57. Consequently, indemnity in case of resignation after five years of service would be 7.5 days per year for the first five years and 15 days per year after 5 years. The only exception to this rule is female employees who resign within six months of their marriage. This is a common practice in private companies in Kuwait.

I would appreciate your clarification and any reference to a relevant article of labour which sustains your own interpretation.

Aska Giwani

Your understanding of the law is accurate. I don't know what clarification you want. Yes, you are also correct in saying that you can get full benefits under Article 57.

You'll get full benefits under Article 57 if the employer fails to abide by the terms of the contract and the provisions of the law; if the labourer has been attacked by the employer or their agent; and if the conditions at his place of employment endangers an employee's safety or health.

To give an example, if an employer does not follow the labour law, or the terms of contract. If an employee is entitled to get 30 days leave salary according to his employee but gives only 14 days pay, an employee has the right to get full benefits.

The end of service benefit rules have not been amended; or revised, under the new regulations that came into effect on March 22, 1989. Under the new rules, Article 21, if an employee's residence is being cancelled, an employer has to submit the employee's passport; identity card; air ticket and a copy of the previous labour permit issued to the labourer.

* * *

My wife has been working in a company since 1983 on a work permit arranged by the company. In 1987, after our marriage, she stopped working and her visa was transferred to a dependent visa. In 1988, she resumed working with the same company and has been employed to the present, and her residence was transferred to the company.

She now intends to leave her job. We would like to know whether she can transfer her residence to a dependent visa?

Agnello Dias

The transfer of a residence permit from a dependent visa to a work permit has not been covered by the labour law of 1989. This is a matter that concerns the Department of Immigration. In my knowledge, in principle, you can get a dependent visa if you meet the requirements, that is, you earn more than KD450 in the public sector and KD600 in the private sector.

* * *

1. Please explain what one month means. Is it 26 working days or 30 working days? 2. Most companies calculate the annual leave like this: Total service multiplied by 26 days and divided by 339 days.

M.A. Abbasi

One month means 30 working days excluding holidays and Fridays. By the law, it must be calculated according to total service multiplied by 30 days and divided by 339 days.

I cannot comment on the method of calculation, accounting, by individual companies. In my knowledge, the above calculation should be made.

* * *

I'm a housemaid with a Canadian family. I've been working with them for 10 months. My first employers were Kuwaitis, who took me back to the Philippine embassy. My new employer paid KD 240 to my first employer to transfer me.

I have only a one year visa with the Canadians. It expires in June or July. My problem is that I don't get proper food; and the wife always threatens to send

me back to the embassy. She is not treating me well.

I want to work for another employer, someone who is willing to sponsor me. I fear my present employers may ask me to repay the KD 240 they paid for me. I don't want to work with them anymore because of the wife's attitude.

Please tell me:

- 1) Can I work with another employer if they don't give me a release?
- 2) How can I leave the country and obtain a visa from new sponsor when my passport is with my present employer?
- 3) If my present employer sends me back to my embassy, on their own discretion, are they obliged to pay for a plane ticket to my country?

I am confused. Please explain all this to me.

B.A.M.

MS. B.A.M., we sympathise with you; yours is not a legal problem. It is a personal difficulty. However, as you have approached me, I advise you talk over your difficulties with your employer. Surely, they'll understand and give you a release. If they do, you can look for another employer, which may not be an easy task. If you are asked to repay KD 240 paid for you, perhaps, you can request the next employer to reimburse the amount. A housemaid is obliged to work, atleast, for two years with one employer; this is common practice.

Firstly, you cannot work for someone else if your present employer does not give a release. If you leave your employer, without taking your passport, you'll be considered a "runaway" maid, and punished under the law.

Secondly, you cannot leave the country without your passport. So, the question of obtaining a new visa does not arise.

Thirdly, if your employer sends you back to your embassy, they may or may not pay for the air ticket, depending on the relationship you have with them. An employer is not obliged to pay the cost of repatriating a housemaid; however, it is common practice for an employer to bear the cost of sending back a maid.

I strongly suggest you try to work out your problem with your employer; and if this doesn't work, you can approach your embassy to mediate on your behalf.

* * *

I AM in my ninth year of service in a private company. However, after completing six and a half years, my services were terminated. At the same time, I was re-hired on a new contract — a post-dated one, making it appear that there was an interruption in my services, when in fact, I worked continuously under the new contract terms, my salary and benefits were substantially reduced.

Is such a new contract valid? Is circumvention of the law a tolerable practice under a certain situation? What action can I take to compel my employer to rectify the mistake, if such an act is not a mistake?

You valuable advice is earnestly sought.

Edmunds.

ACTUALLY, several employees face a similar problem. You have asked a good question. Let me assure that the law does not look kindly on those who circumvent the last. This law and the courts in Kuwait do not accept a change in contract while on the job.

When companies began the practice of re-hiring an employee on a new contract, many employees accepted to work on a new contract, because they had no other choice; in other words, they needed the job, and agreed to continue under pressure.

In a court of law, you'll be able to get the back salary, and the dues that are entitled to you from the date of first contract. Your employment must be on the previous terms and conditions; as long as they are the most beneficial for you.

Let me assure you that if you take legal action, an option open to you, you'll win the case. In this case you can ask for the salary that you were getting at the start of service nine years ago. The difference between the old and the new wages can also be obtained.

However, let me warn you of the consequences of legal action. If you file a case, your employer not take it kindly and might object to your continuing in the job. He may, and can, fire you. Are you prepared to lose your job?

* * *

I ENTERED Kuwait in July 1978 on a domestic visa. In March, 1988, I changed it to a work permit, No. 18. Can I transfer my residence to any other company since I've completed 10 years in Kuwait?

My friend works for a sub-contractor at the MEW's power station project. The company is handing over the work to the MEW, which also requires my friend's services. Is it possible to change his residence to the MEW even though he has not completed three years with the private company?

Ravindra

YOU don't say whether you cancelled your first visa and went back to your country, or had the transfer made locally. If you've stayed continuously for 10 years in Kuwait, you can ask your employer to

transfer the residence, provided both the new and the old employers agree: that is if your present employer, of his own accord, grants a release; and the new sponsor, a visa.

I would like to point out that if both employers — the old and the new — agree, granting a new visa depends on the discretion of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Your friend's problems comes under Article 17 of the new labour law, which governs the transfer of a labourer from one government project to another project, also in the public sector.

Your friend wants to join the government sector. In this case, both the private company and the ministry must agree to the transfer. If he gets the ministry job, he'll not be covered by the labour law; he'll come under the Civil Service rules.

In principle, there is no problem, as long as both the previous and the new employers agree to his employment. However whether or not he gets the job depends on the discretion of the new employer, the ministry.

* * *

KINDLY enlighten me how much money is owed, in terms of end of service benefits, if I ended my two year contract. Can I consider it terminated or resignation?

Also, if I work in a company for more than two years, after a two-year contract, and the terms and conditions are verbally agreed, what are the benefits I am entitled to?

Name withheld.

THE contract states the terms and conditions of how employment can end, defining the method of ending it. For example, if you give a notice of your intention to resign, then, it's taken as a resignation. In this case, you're not entitled to a settlement, because the period of employment is less than five years. But, if you are terminated, you'll get the settlement according to terms of the contract, which is covered by the Kuwaiti law.

If you continue to work with the same company, under the law, your contract is considered renewed for an unlimited period; and you'll be entitled for the end of service benefits, calculated by the number of years of service, provided your services are terminated.

★★★

I CAME to Kuwait on a domestic visa — No. 20 — in October, 1982. My residence was cancelled in August 1984 and I left Kuwait.

In September, 1984, I re-entered Kuwait on a work permit, No. 18, and worked for a contracting company (contractor for the Ministry of Public Works). Now, the company will complete the project within a month.

Is there any chance of transferring my work permit to any other sponsor/company.

Babu

UNDERR the exemption given to those staying in Kuwait for 10 years or more, a person must stay "continuously" in Kuwait. You seem to have left and re-entered Kuwait in 1984 and 1987.

If the government project is nearing completion, you can seek another job on a project similar to the one you are currently employed on. Part 2, of Article 16, of the new labour rules stipulate that a labourer "cannot be transferred from one employer to another during the valid period of contract," however, the law gives a labourer the right to transfer his residence to another sponsor "to a project of a similar nature," provided the project has actually been completed.

Clause 3/4 of article 16 prohibits the transfer of an employee from one project to another when the contract is valid; when the contract has been completed, under clause 4, your employer has the right to transfer the worker to another project of a similar nature; or repatriate him/them.

★★★

SINCE I came to Kuwait in 1987 as a housemaid, I've changed two jobs. I don't like to work as a housemaid any more. I want to change my visa to work permit, No. 18. Can I change it?

Hawaiza

IN principle you can change your visa from that of a housemaid — No. 20 — and get a work permit, No. 18. First, you must cancel the present visa and leave the country. Then, you can re-enter with a work visa, No. 18, which your new employer must obtain for you, provided you've found a sponsor who'll get a new visa for you.

★★★★★

If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind, send your questions to Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khalid Tahir replies to readers' queries. Write to Arab Times, PO Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait; fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. If you have any doubts, please call 4813566 ext 285 between 12 noon and 6 pm.

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Marine pollution accord signed

KUWAIT, May 21, (KUNA): Kuwait Foreign Ministry, Undersecretary Majed Al Shafei and the Ambassador of Qatar to Kuwait Ahmed Rumaihi signed here Sunday an agreement on Qatar's endorsement of a maritime pollution protocol resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf.

Shafei told KUNA the

countries overlooking the Arabian Gulf have paid tangible attention to the maritime environment, even prior to concluding agreements or enacting laws, motivated by deeply-rooted spiritual link to the sea.

He expressed satisfaction for the keenness demonstrated by Gulf states, even in the worst situation, on protecting the maritime environment which has

been running positively. Ambassador Rumaihi, in a statement to KUNA, said Qatar has always been concerned with the environmental issues and keen on safeguarding the maritime environment by all means.

The Gulf war had negative effects on the maritime environment, he said.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I AM a slow walker, but I never walk backwards — Abraham Lincoln, former US president (1809-1865).

OPINION

Urgent action needed

WHEN the dollar goes down or up, it is a process that is a result of certain political calculations. This also is reflected in other currencies.

Work in the international bourses is done in accordance with calculations and systems, some formulated by individuals and some by the governments. After the crash in world stocks two years ago in what has come to be termed "Black Monday," the main concern of the governments in those countries was to prevent the adverse effects of the crash on individuals and financial establishments. Meetings and measures were instituted until the markets stabilised and investors in a sense came to accept the price retreat.

What we want to say here is that the increase and decrease of the rate of currencies is a political decision. When the governments see that their markets are not performing well, they take the necessary measures to improve them.

But here, the strength and good performance of the financial market, bourse and the real estate market, is being resisted officially, because there are some who do not want to see markets in good shape. They almost mean to destroy many traders because they think they are just "temporary merchants," simply meaning that they don't understand the business. Does it really mean that in Kuwait, there should be a very limited number of merchants?

We have said before and want to say again that the retreat in the value of assets in the stock market or real estate market, literally the Kuwaiti economy — which is supported by the government, would result in the increase in the amount of debts and an increase in the value of interest rates on them, which can lead to dangerous consequences.

The retreat in the value of assets is totally against the basics of economics and will result in compelling the government to provide more funds to support the local banks which now have debts worth KD 4 billion, which includes KD 2 billion of the group involved in the difficult loans settlement scheme.

Every year, the amount of these debts increases with the increase in interest coupled by a drop in its market value. Thus, we can expect the amount to go up to KD 2.5 billion by next year, if not more when the value of assets dramatically goes down.

What we really require is a political decision to solve this problem by increasing the value of the assets — if the government is not in a hurry to pay. Hesitation and slow action will further complicate the crisis in a country where the activity of individuals is itself the economic activity of the state. Perhaps we should remember in this case the old saying "I would like to live rich rather than die rich."

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Gorbachev's new political thinking

... next stop in Japan

By Michael Putzel

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev got what he came for: the declaration at the start of the Sino-Soviet summit talks that relations between the two countries have returned to normal after 30 years of acrimony.

Now, for the first time since World War II, all three nations of the strategic triangle — the United States, the Soviet Union and China — are on essentially friendly terms with each other.

Among the world's major industrialised nations, only Japan remains outside the spheres of Gorbachev's "new political thinking." Japan and the Soviet Union are still at odds over the Soviets' refusal to return the islands they seized from the vanquished Japanese at the end of the war.

But the sides of the strategic triangle are still far from being equilateral. The headstart the United States received by initiating contacts with China in 1972, near the low-point in Soviet-Chinese relations, is now evident in a look at how far the Soviets have to go to catch up.

US trade with China surpassed \$13 billion last year, more than four times the level of the Soviet Union's cross-border trade with China.

While the Soviet Union still has more than a half-million troops tied down in guarding the Chinese border, the US fleet was making a friendly port call in Shanghai the day after Gorbachev's visit to the city. The American ships had been scheduled to sail into port on Thursday, but their arrival was postponed, apparently to avoid embarrassing the Soviet leader. Gorbachev, for his part, went to considerable trouble to avoid protracting his resumption of ties with China as a challenge to the United States.

During the 30-year rift, the Soviet Union lost much of the cultural influence it had during and after China's communist revolution. Some of the octogenarians in Chinese leadership chatted with Gorbachev in Russian, but Chinese now study English as their second language.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1629 — Denmark's King Christian IV is forced to sign Peace of Lubeck with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand.

1693 — French again destroy Heidelberg and ravage the Rhineland.

1762 — Sweden and Prussia sign peace treaty of Hamburg.

1822 — United States and Korea sign treaty of peace and friendship.

1833 — Constitution in Chile gives greater power to president and establishes Roman Catholicism as state religion.

1914 — Britain acquires control of oil properties in Gulf from Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

1918 — German planes raid Paris, France, in World War I.

1939 — Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini sign "Act of Steel," a 10-year political and military alliance between the two nations.

1967 — Communist-led riots occur in Hong Kong against British.

1973 — Britain and United States veto UN Security Council resolution to extend trade sanctions against Rhodesia to include South Africa and Portuguese territories in Africa.

1975 — White-ruled African nation of Rhodesia is expelled from Olympic competition because of its racial policies.

1982 — Britain says 5,000 of its troops have landed on Falkland Islands beachhead, and that 20 men are presumed dead in sinking of British missile frigate.

1983 — Giant avalanche roars down on Teglio, tiny northern Italian village, killing nine people and injuring at least 20.

1984 — Soviet forces are reported to continue to bomb across the Panjshir valley in northern Afghanistan, while also pursuing a diplomatic solution to the 4-year-old struggle against Muslim rebels.

1985 — A car bomb explodes in a Beirut suburb, killing 60 people and wounding 190 others.

1988 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expresses optimism that agreement to cut long-range nuclear weapons can be completed before US President Ronald Reagan leaves office.

Stage set for Arafat

Arab summit in Casablanca

By Jonathan Clayton

EGYPT, the only Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, returns to the Arab fold next week to lend its weight to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Middle East peace strategy.

But the worsening crisis in Lebanon, where arch rivals Syria and Iraq are lined up on opposite sides of the Muslim-Christian divide, risks hijacking an emergency Arab summit due to open in Casablanca on May 23.

"It would be a tragedy if Lebanon were to derail what has the making of an historic summit," a senior US diplomat said.

In the run-up, Saudi Arabia will be applying immense pressure on both Syria and Iraq to cool it.

Morocco's King Hassan convened the meeting of kings, amirs and presidents to rally support for what he says are moderate PLO policies — strengthening Arafat's hand in talks with Washington and wrong-footing radicals opposed to his leadership.

His reward will be the opening a dialogue with the United States and a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, his first with the leader of one the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

But his peace drive has lost some momentum and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir took the spotlight with a plan for elections in the occupied territories. Arafat needs Arab support to get his drive rolling again.

The summit will first deal with the formality of readmitting Egypt to the 22-member Arab League from which it was expelled for making peace with Israel in 1979.

Moroccan envoys criss-crossed the Middle East for weeks preparing for the summit, although Libya, Cairo's long-time foe, tried at the last minute to rally opinion against holding the meeting.

Egypt's full return to the maelstrom of Arab politics is strongly supported by Washington which believes the voice of the Arab world's most populous nation will strengthen the moderate wing in Arab councils.

"We think this (the summit) could be a triumph for the moderates and the most important thing for

us is getting Egypt back into the fold," the US diplomat said.

Morocco and pro-Western countries such as Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia will try to ensure a result which they believe Washington can use to force the Israelis to give ground.

The United States hopes the summit will not reject outright Shamir's plan for elected representatives to negotiate interim self-rule. Palestinians reject the plan for failing to offer a role for the PLO or promise an independent state.

Arab diplomatic sources say they expect the leaders to issue an updated form of the Fez plan for Middle East peace of 1982 which gave implicit Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist for the first time.

The plan, rejected by Israel, envisaged an independent state in the occupied territories with Jerusalem as its capital and stated the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Diplomats say they believe hardline Syria, which backs Palestinian groups opposed to Arafat, will go along with the others.

In return Damascus will seek a promise that the summit will skirt around the quagmire of Lebanese politics.

Sources say the summit is likely to revive a committee to hasten the convening of an international Middle East peace conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the United Nations, Arafat's immediate goal.

The summit agenda will formally be drawn up at a meeting of foreign ministers on Sunday.

The day before, a six-member Arab League committee under Kuwait's chairmanship will meet to try to reinforce the ceasefire in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

The Arab League appointed the committee to try to resolve the constitutional crisis which left Lebanon with two governments, a deadlocked parliament and a divided army.

The crisis intensified when Christian leader Major-General Michel Aoun, backed by Iraq, vowed to drive 40,000 Syrian troops out of the country and the past two months has seen savage artillery battles across Beirut's Muslim-Christian divide. (Reuter — Casablanca)



Arafat

\$1.2 trillion owed by developing nations

World Bank, IMF to play key role in reducing Third World debt

By David R. Francis

BARBER Conable, president of the World Bank, was at first a little reluctant to talk about the Third World external-debt problem.

"Debt is not the central issue," says the head of an institution that, with its affiliates, made some \$20 billion in development-loan commitments last year. He sees the bank's greatest goal as alleviation of poverty: 90 million poor people in Latin America, where debt impedes economic growth; 280 million "absolute poor" in Africa, where the need is for more schools, roads, and other infrastructure; and 600 million in Asia where debt is not a serious problem.

Nonetheless, the World Bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), are expected to play a key role in the revised United States strategy for dealing with the \$1.2 trillion in developing-country debt owed to the commercial banks and governments of industrial nations.

That altered strategy, outlined March 10 by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, envisions three ways to reduce the debt burden of debtor nations. In one case, bank loans would be swapped for "exit bonds" of lower face value. The banks would take a loss on a portion of these loans. In a second case, bank debts would be traded for similar bonds, but with equal face value and a lower interest rate. The banks would lose on interest payments. Third, debts could be swapped for part ownership of businesses in the debtor nation.

How the bank and IMF will be involved in this process is not entirely clear. Bank officials expect details of the Brady approach to be fleshed out by precedents to be set when the debts of individual countries are rescheduled. The primary candidate for a test of this approach is Mexico with \$102 billion in foreign debts.

Conable spoke just before Secretary Brady at a recent meeting of the Bretton Woods Committee, saying: "A good place to start would be with Mexico. Mexico has indicated a willingness to engage in major reform, it has substantial prospects but substantial debt, and it has lived up to its obligations."

In an interview here, he said: "There's interest on all sides in letting the things evolve some, in trying to include debt-reduction components in the workout schemes that we are trying to put together for these countries."

Deficit

Since the US federal government with its huge budget deficit finds itself in no position to accept any transfer of loan losses from the commercial banks, it will expect the World Bank, the IMF, and the Inter-American Development Bank to help in rescheduling deals. These institutions most likely will guarantee some "exit bonds" or a portion of new commercial bank loans that such debtor nations as Mexico need to assure future economic growth.

These multilateral institutions will also be expected to inject money into the debtor countries with what are called "adjustment loans." These are not tied to any development project, such as a dam, but are used to help cover international-payments deficits in return for domestic economic reforms in the debtor countries.

However, Conable warns that any such measures must not bankrupt either the commercial banks or the multilateral institutions, "or dissipate unnecessarily capital they need for their other responsibilities."



Barber Conable, president, World Bank

The former US congressman undoubtedly had in mind the safety of the bank's capital, which a needed majority of the bank's 151 member nations agreed to nearly double last year.

Some commercial bankers have hoped that with the capital increase the World Bank could rapidly increase its lending. This would help the debtor nations grow faster and ease their debt-servicing burden.

However, Conable questioned whether the bank itself (minus such affiliates as the International Development Association, which makes easy-term loans to the poorest countries, and the International Finance Corporation, which makes equity investments in private companies in developing countries) could grow 10 per cent a year as originally thought. That growth rate would increase its annual loan commitments from \$15 billion now to \$20 billion in the early 1990s.

Conable's caution stems from the bank's greater emphasis on protecting the environment, helping women progress, and stimulating the private sector in making new development loans.

Protecting the environment is necessary to sustain the resource base and development, he says. Nor can development proceed properly by ignoring women, half the human race.

These greater emphases require more work on the part of the staff of the World Bank, as well as more co-ordination with the developing countries, the bank president notes.

Work

He also says the bank's "member countries," presumably in this case some industrial nations, do not want the development institution "to go all out and grow the way we used to."

Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. charges the bank with a "timid approach" to its non-project-related lending, that it does not provide adequate support to developing countries undertaking economic reforms. It points out that these countries are making more interest and capital payments to the World Bank than they are receiving from the bank. Thus in the first nine months of 1988 there was a net inflow to the bank of \$1.63 billion.

This, explains Conable, is partly because nations that have progressed enough in economic terms to "graduate" from receiving bank loans are still making repayments on old loans. South Korea (though not graduated) is using its huge international payments surplus to repay old loans.

Further, a country like India with a "big bureaucracy" is slow in actually disbursing the loan money that has been approved by the bank for various projects. India has committed but undisbursed bank loans exceeding \$10 billion, he says.

Another factor in slow disbursement has been the failure of some key debtor nations to live up to their promises of economic reforms.

Conable noted that Brazil has not met its "conditionality requirements," and thus the bank has held back some loan funds.

The same is true of Argentina. The World Bank agreed last October to make loans of \$1.25 billion to Argentina. It was controversial because, with the approval of the United States and some other industrial countries, the bank sidestepped the IMF, which normally takes the lead in providing major loans of this type.

Early in March the bank suspended further loan disbursements when Argentina failed to meet specific loan conditions for economic policy reforms. Because of a forthcoming election, Conable has doubts that Argentina will make the necessary reforms soon.

Such required reforms, he emphasizes, are intended to bring about conditions for economic growth, not to cause shrinkage.

The Argentine loan was one sign of a certain rivalry between the bank and the IMF. "There are various stresses and strains between the two agencies," admits Conable. "But I wouldn't overstate it."

This stems from some overlap in their jurisdiction, he explains. The IMF provides short-term stabilization loans to countries with balance of payments problems. The bank makes longer-term development loans. However, both institutions have moved into the area of medium-term loans to developing countries.

"We can manage the overlap by major consultation, co-operation, and co-ordination of our activities," he says.

The Christian Science Monitor

'Opium of the people' makes a comeback in Eastern bloc

Life easier for believers in the communist world

By Patrick Worsnip

RELIGION, once denounced by Karl Marx as "the opium of the people," is reasserting itself in much of the Eastern bloc as liberalising communist regimes loosen the shackles on the church, synagogue and mosque.

Wednesday's decision by the Polish parliament to give the country's powerful Roman Catholic church legal status for the first time since the communist takeover in 1944, and restore its property and privileges, has been hailed as a landmark move.

But elsewhere in the Warsaw Pact, similar if less far-reaching moves are afoot. The Soviet Union, Hungary and, to a limited extent, Czechoslovakia are all starting to make life easier for believers.

Little change, however, has so far been reported from Romania and Bulgaria and church-state relations in East Germany seem if anything to have taken a turn for the worse.

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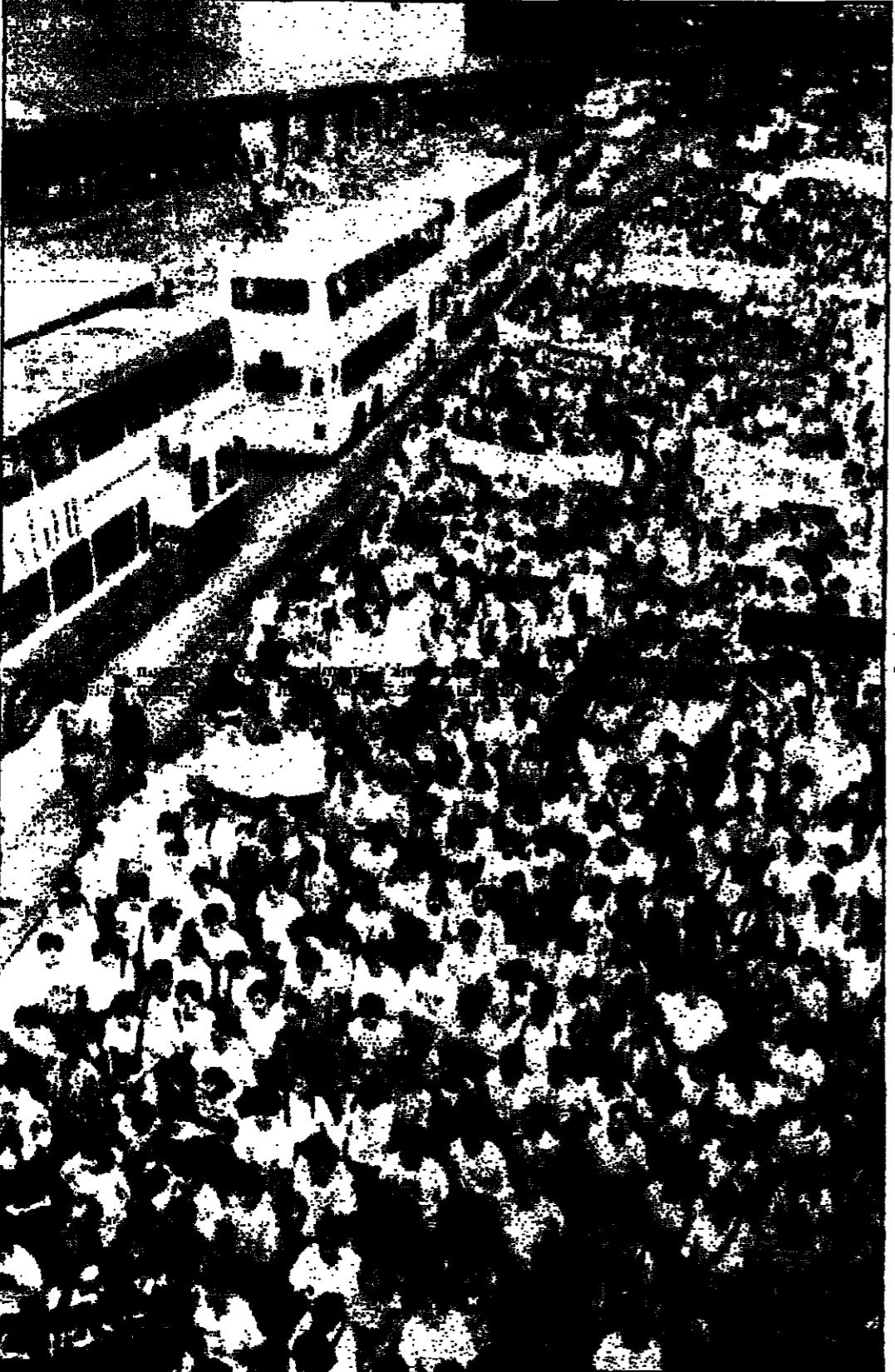
A soldier lays down his weapon to enjoy some ice cream.



Students in Tiananmen Square practise wearing masks which will help against tear-gas if it is used by any army invasion of the square.



Chinese Army troops are surrounded by a sea of citizens as their path to Tiananmen Square is blocked on a south-west access road yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



Hundreds of thousands of chanting people jam Hong Kong's Wanchai District in a major demonstration of support for Beijing's pro-democracy struggle. (Reuter wirephoto)

Chinese Army

(Continued from Page 1)

statement said.

At Beijing's main railway station, about one mile from downtown Tiananmen Square, a 10 carriage train carrying an estimated 1,500 soldiers armed with AK-47 assault rifles was swamped by students who held the soldiers virtual prisoners inside their cars.

The train, parked at platform six, had arrived earlier in the day. As news of its arrival spread students gathered and by late afternoon thousands of them had moved onto the platform to confront the soldiers and plead with them not to move on to the square.

By nightfall close to 100,000 people had flocked to the station in support of attempts to keep the soldiers inside the station. Public buses have been drawn up to block intersections and prevent any escape attempt.

However Chinese sources said armed units were massed on the grounds of Chinese state television. Unconfirmed reports from students said soldiers have been positioned in the Great Hall of the People and the Forbidden City opposite Tiananmen Square. They were brought there via underground passages.

Authorities slapped severe restrictions on foreign and domestic journalists today, including banning live television broadcasts, but that failed to stop hungry reporters from telling a story that student-led crowds wanted the world to know.

Western and local journalists defied government restrictions issued along with yesterday's declaration of martial law to shoot film from upper-storey hotel windows, rush videotape to the airport and wade through crowds to conduct interviews among the more than one million students and workers who flooded the streets of Beijing.

"Tell our story to the world," a young Chinese man shouted yesterday as he ran alongside a jeep carrying Western reporters into the city from the Beijing International Airport.

Holding aloft a bright red banner, he yelled to a group of about 500 people strung across the road who immediately parted, waving and smiling as the jeep slipped through.



A soldier receives a cigarette from a citizen as a troop convoy is stalled in the southwest suburb of the city yesterday. The convoy has been blocked by people and buses for 24 hours. (Reuter wirephoto)

March for Chinese democracy

400,000 jam Hong Kong streets

HONG KONG, May 21, (UPI): The largest political demonstration ever held in Hong Kong jammed the streets of the British colony today to support the pro-democracy movement in China and demand the resignation of China's leadership.

The student-led demonstration began amid the towering skyscrapers of the central business district and wound up with a mass rally at a racetrack, taking more than three and one-half hours to pass a single point.

Police estimated the turnout at 400,000 and said it was the largest demonstration ever in Hong Kong, which is scheduled to revert to Chinese rule in 1997.

Many demonstrators shouted slogans urg-

ing China's top leaders, Deng Xiaoping and Premier Li Peng, to step down, blaming them for widespread corruption and official lawlessness and for bringing about the worst political crisis in Beijing since the 1965-75 Cultural Revolution.

The high-spirited crowd chanted pro-democracy slogans and carried banners saying, "Against martial law" and "Down with Li Peng" as protesters headed for the Happy Valley racetrack, where they filled the grandstand and spilled over into the infield.

The Hong Kong government and the colony's law-making legislative council have refused to make any statement on the turmoil

in China but individual lawmakers joined the protest, which also included religious groups, teachers, movie stars and families with small children.

In Washington some 3,500 Chinese students from colleges across the United States marched on the Chinese embassy yesterday, chanting, "Freedom of speech," to protest attempts to quash pro-democracy demonstrations in their homeland.

Students from as far away as Ohio and Massachusetts marched some 12 city blocks to the Chinese embassy, as passers-by showed their support by raising their hands in the victory sign.



Chinese students demonstrate near the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Members of the Chinese community living in France were demonstrating to support Tiananmen Square students. (Reuter wirephoto)



Shanghai residents read a poster telling of the latest news that troops are being sent to Beijing to put an end to protests. (Reuter wirephoto)

Beijing confronts the 'people's' army ... dawn is breaking and the people have won again

BEIJING, (AP): Elderly women, old men smoking pipes, mothers with their babies and tens of thousands of others joined together to close Beijing's streets Sunday to protect student demonstrators from the army.

Crowds in Beijing rolled huge cement pipes, 5 feet (2 metres) in diameter, across some roads. Truck drivers moved their flatbeds, packed with coal, into position to block off others. Bus and taxi cab drivers also sacrificed their vehicles to help close off

other thoroughfares.

Every major street going east-west and most major streets going north-south were blocked to protect the protesters who've been demonstrating for greater democracy for eight days.

By 6 a.m. Sunday, the government had apparently given in to the blockade because the rumoured show of force by soldiers hadn't materialised as dawn broke over the city. The students began moving some of the roadblocks out of the way.

At one intersection, a huge tractor trailer stopped traffic, but moved just enough to form an opening for a single car.

Men wearing white headbands that read, "freedom and democracy" were checking identification cards, looking for military or security personnel.

"It's only natural," said a middle-aged man who lived in the neighbourhood. "We are protecting the people."

At Liu Li Bridge in southwest Beijing, thousands of local residents assisted by students confronted a convoy of 20 army trucks holding more than 600 soldiers. About 30 trucks with coal and scrap metal blocked the soldiers' way.

"The People's Liberation Army belongs to the people," the crowd chanted. "Patriotism is no crime."

Young men climbed on the trucks and talked with the soldiers. Some soldiers laughed and dis-

cused the student movement, sitting back with Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles in their laps. Others refused to talk with the students.

Students using microphones spoke to the crowd and the soldiers atop the cabs of the convoy.

"Dear soldiers," said an open letter read by a woman soldier with a hoarse voice. "Now is the critical time. Listen to the people surrounding you. Our movement is a patriotic, democratic

movement."

"People's power is unstoppable," said a middle-aged man, as he stood with his child, near the army trucks. "I just can't believe they would kill our own students."

The soldiers stopped at Liu Li Bridge were from Shandong.

"Dawn is breaking," people shouted as the sky grew lighter. "The people have won again."

INDIAN VIDEO ROUND UP

Paternity blues manage to sustain interest

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

HINDI films seldom tackle issues. If they do talk about social ills, they cover them up with gloss and glitter, making them invisible. *Rakhwala*, directed by K. Muralimohana Rao, is an exception to the rule. It takes up an issue: paternity, and manages to sustain interest throughout the movie.

Rakhwala, a recent release is tolerable, so is *Mahadev*, but *Ustaad* is fluff.

Rakhwala and *Ustaad* both, in some ways, are talking about paternity, attempting to "legalise" the status of children born out of wedlock. If *Rakhwala* does it with panache, *Ustaad* beats around the bush.

Anil Kapoor plays the protagonist and the catalyst, a performance that the actor would certainly like to remember. Anil's recent films, *Teesaab* and *Ram Lakhan* to name two, tend to play up the actor's image of an angry young man who upholds the rights of the downtrodden. In *Rakhwala*, Anil plays a social outcast who wants to protect others like him. The crux of the film rests on the friendship between Anil and a child, who comes to the city to search for her missing father, a person she has never seen. She also doesn't know his name. They become friends to support a mutual cause.

Anil's role is fashioned on Amitabh's in *Lawaris*, and as such the film has traces of the previous movie, but the touches are so subtle that one can miss them, but the parallels are there. This besides the point is, though it does add drama to the movie.

Director Rao and story-writer V.C. Guanathan, between them carry the tale to its dramatic climax, hooking viewers with the crucial tug of war, and emotional battle, between father and son.

Well-structured, it relies on Anil's capability to lure viewers with his rhetoric and innocence; this coupled with Rao's slick, taut direction give it emotional appeal. It touches the heart, particularly the anguish and pain of the child looking for a father she does not know; these scenes, are perhaps, the most engrossing.

Rao takes up the issue from a dramatic and humanitarian point of view; he wants us to recognise that it was not the child's fault that he was born out of wedlock. *Rakhwala* could have indulged in self-pity. That it does not is its strength. It could have been tedious, but this is prevented by a touch of romance and humour. But it is the friendship between the man, Anil, and the child that keeps the ball rolling.

The story changes dramatically with the entry of Kiran, a journalist who doesn't remember her past. Shabana Azmi in a

brief cameo excels as the mad woman who runs away from a psychiatric hospital.

Tanuja, Farha, Prem Chopra and Suresh Oberoi also star in the film.

Ustaad

In comparison, *Ustaad* is a downbeat movie inspired by a tried and tested commercial film formula. It also talks about unwed mothers and their offspring, and like *Rakhwala*, it wants to give them dignity. But it resorts to a clichéd ploy. Shekhar, an escaped convict, marries Asha and leaves her in the village, promising to return. He never does. The rest is cinematic history. Asha commits suicide; her brother Shankar, who grows up to be Vinod Khanna, vows to take revenge. No prizes for guessing the outcome. Vinod's machismo fails to impress despite attempts to rely on his image. An actor needs a good story to carry it on his shoulders. And *Ustaad* is based on an unoriginal idea that has seen its day, and should now be put to rest.

Mahadev

Vinod Khanna's image is exploited in *Mahadev*, a Raj Sippy film, that touts the old line but injects fresh ideas. In principle, *Mahadev* is a proverbial war between good and bad (aren't all Hindi films), but it differs in presentation. Any regular film buff would know the rules of the familiar "commercial blockbuster". Good is represented by the crusader; bad by the villain. *Mahadev* is no different. But it differs in how they react in each other's company. In a wider perspective, the movie talks about nepotism in high places and how this affects those who believe in honesty and such other attributes.

Breaking away from the traditional mold, it starts off with a police officer, Shankar's resignation. Vinod Khanna plays Shankar who starts a one-man crusade against crime. The story unfolds gradually as Shankar is unwillingly drawn into the battle; and builds up into a war.

Sippy talks about brewing spurious liquor; flesh trade and the harassment of police. In his own way, he focusses on nepotism and corruption penetrating society. The film's strength lies in exposing palpable harassment, singling out people who pose a threat and removing them for the benefit of a few. Changing tactics. Sippy focusses on how the law can do injustice. He conveniently evades the issue of taking action against the law-breakers. Nevertheless, *Mahadev* is a watchable movie.

Meenakshi Seshadri plays the romantic foil. Raj Babbar and Anupam Kher also star.

The above films are courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 4712900

When Did You Last See Your Trousers in final stages



Robert Puddicombe (centre) reads a script as Michelle Jeans (left), Paul Brown and Maureen Adams (right) look on.

an ingenious and highly practical set.

The play opens with Howard Swerling, (Paul Brown), awakening to discover that a burglar has stolen his clothes.

The dedication of the cast has been mirrored by the hard work of producer Yvonne Whitehill and the stage crew, ably led by Vince Frickle, who are putting the final touches to

revolves around Howard's ever more wild attempts to obtain a suit of clothes. Add to this a spaced-out punk and his girl friend, a cashed racing and captain the missing home secretary, an androgynous policeman and lunatic police inspector together with a gorilla and the result is total

hilarious and side-splitting confusion.

Says Mike, "Our most difficult task to date has been to explain to the customs officers why we need to import a Metropolitan Policeman's helmet and finding a stuffed pigeon." For details see What's On.

KTV 1

Live telecast of Saudi Soccer Cup final, Al Naser vs Al Hilal on KTV Channels 6 and 45 at 8.45 pm.

MORNING

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.10 Sabah Al Khir
- 9.15 Falloona: Cartoon serial (Part 3)
- 9.45 Magazine D'Actualite
- 10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic serial (Part 10)
- 10.45 News summary and varieties
- 11.00 Al Aswar: local serial (Part 10)
- 11.50 News summary and varieties
- 12.00 Kuwait Al Ams: local documentary programme
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World News via Satellite
- 4.45 Sherlock Holmes: cartoon serial
- 5.15 Mama Anisa Wa Esighar: Children programme, prepared by Samiya Mohamed
- 5.45 Varieties
- 6.00 Nadam: historical serial (Part 4)
- 7.30 Varieties
- 7.45 Holy Quran and

- wide array of Oriental favourites along with live music entertainment plus magician to thrill the little ones and many other games for the children.

- At Ramada Al Salem
 - El Bendar offers special iftar and summer buffet; Al Gondou Grill Garden, open in the evenings offers a selection of grills in the ambience of a waterfall.

- Al Mawardi Garden: After iftar, relax in the open-air with screen.

SPORTS

- Swimming and Keep Fit

- SWIMMING lessons have commenced at the Holiday Inn which is available for non-members. Monday (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.

- Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo.

- Saturdays and Tuesdays (7 to 8 pm) Bowling alley available for company tournaments.

- Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome. Tennis coaching available for non-members.

- Additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam-oil - and cream) for ladies and men. Contact the recreation department on 4742000 ext. 6788 or 6700.

- At the Meridian
 - SPECIAL weekly promotion at La Brasserie restaurant.

- Asian corner every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. A wide variety of Asian dishes, in addition to the regular buffet, will be featured. Tempura, fried noodles, etc. are prepared in front of the guests and served on the spot.

- Mexican night every Sunday. Discover the delight of Mexican cuisine awaiting you in our Little Mexico.

- Greek Taverna every Tuesday. Experience authentic Greek ambience and food with bouzouki music and a wide variety of mezzes.

- Family day every Friday. Enjoy a Friday with your family. La Brasserie offers a

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 2

NIGHT CHEMIST

CINEMA TODAY

- 6.30 Wild America: Grizzly Creek. This documentary takes a look at wildlife in America.

- 7.00 Roving Report: Weekly roundup of world and regional affairs.

- 7.30 Charles-in-Charge: UFO! Oh No! Charles and the children see a flying saucer but have trouble convincing others.

- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Paradise: Founder's Day. Relatives of a bank robber seek revenge.

- 9.30 227: Shall We Dance. When Lester's childhood sweetheart visits the neighbourhood, Mary fears she will

- move in on her turf. Comedy.

- 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Reunion. Mrs Stacey, a war widow, learns the gruesome details of how her husband died during the Vietnam War. Thriller.

- 10.30 French Series: Le Crocodile Empaile. A thriller about a series of unrelated crimes that baffle police. The pieces of the jigsaw puzzle fall together after the new manager of a company is blackmailed.

- 12.00 News Summary/ Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

- Fahheel Open-air New Delhi

- Fahheel Bound for Glory

- Jahra Overboard

- Grasida Dragon Force

- Salmah Little Nikita

- Al Jaleeb Shatru

- Al Nasr Drive-in Revenge of Nerds II

- Fahheel Open-air

- Iron Angels II

- Starring: Alex Young, Mona Lee

- Al Salmiya Revenge of the Nerds II

- Starring: Robert Carridine, Antony Edwards

- Al Hamaa Lucas

- Starring: Charlie Chan, Karen Hutton

- Drive-in Arees Fi Al Ya Naseeb (Arabic)

- Starring: Samir Ghanim, Dalal Abdul Aziz

- Al Firdous Sawal (Hindi)

- Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon

- Fahheel Open-Air Andha Yudh (Hindi)

- Fair Zehr 3.21 am

- Ast 3.20 pm

- Maghreb 6.37

- Isha 8.06

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

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Economics leads Taiwan diplomacy

TAIPEI, May 21, (UPI): Armed with a new economic confidence and pragmatism, Taiwan has taken the first steps out of China's shadow and toward forging its own political identity.

Forced into diplomatic isolation by its colossal neighbour and former mother country, this small island has initiated an aggressive and flexible diplomacy that is successfully wooing friendship with wealth.

It established a \$1 billion fund to aid friendly developing nations in October and its economic commitment to the Philippines, totalling \$1.9 billion in 1988, has "bought" a bill which would protect Taiwan investments there despite strong protests from Beijing.

Singapore, another country which enjoys close relations with Taiwan but intends soon to establish diplomatic links with China, invited President Lee Teng-Hui for a state visit in April. It was the first overseas trip by a Taiwan head of state in 12 years.

France upgraded its trade office in Taipei in February, and Britain is considering doing the same.

Economic might has opened these windows of opportunity for Taiwan, which has foreign reserves totalling \$76 billion, but formal relations with only 23 countries.

The trademark pragmatism of Lee's administration has brought about the so-called "one country, two governments" policy, a formula for peaceful co-existence of two separate but equal Chinese regimes.

While some political analysts contend this policy only confirms the existing reality since the communist takeover of the mainland in 1949, most agree that it signifies a major change by Taipeh.

Seminar on investment

KUWAIT, May 21, (KUNA): Jordan hosts a seminar tomorrow on evaluation of Arab investment projects in the Arab world.

The seminar is co-sponsored by the Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee, the Ministry of Trade and Industry as well as the Central Bank of Jordan.

The seminar, which will be opened by the Jordanian minister of trade and industry, will discuss the factors that affect investment in the Arab countries, a corporation press release said.

A number of UN and Arab missions will take part in the seminar in addition to Arab investment companies and economic experts.

OAPEC legal panel to meet

KUWAIT, May 21, (KUNA): The legal panel of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is due to hold an open session on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Faris Abdul Rahman Al Wazayani.

A press statement by the organisation said the session will be devoted to complete hearings on Iraq's complaint against Syria for barring the transport of Iraqi oil via its lands.

It added the session will be held at 4 pm at OAPEC's headquarters in Kuwait.

Syria shut off a pipeline carrying Iraqi oil to a Syrian Mediterranean port in 1982 over a political dispute with Iraq.

Interest rates

KUWAIT, May 21, (KUNA): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-13/16	9-1/4
3 months	8-13/16	9-1/4
6 months	8-13/16	9-3/16
1 year	8-13/16	9-3/16

The loan package "will support structural changes undertaken by the federal government in the financial industrial, commercial and state-run sectors," Aspe said.

"One portion of the resources will be utilised for debt reduction, serving as an important advance in

ignores families that were dependent on child labour and nearly 20,000 people who were injured, relief workers said.

"This logic is faulty," said Alok Pratap Singh, an activist who works with gas victims. "Children in India work along with their parents and earn money."

Whether a family was supported by one adult or many, the payments that began on May 9 are the same, said S. R. Satyam, principal secretary of the Gas Tragedy and

Relief Department of Madhya Pradesh state.

Child labour in India is prevalent among the poor, with children working to sustain the family. According to the Indian Council for Child Welfare, a voluntary body, one-third of India's 300 million children work.

The payments already transferred from the US-based multinational corporation to the Indian government, also have missed some entitled survivors, said Abdul Jabbar Khan, leader of the Bhopal Gas Affected Women's Organisation.

Trade pacts highlight new Iran-Soviet ties

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 21, (AP): The Soviet Union and Iran signed a new agreement Thursday to boost economic ties and will soon sign a long-term co-operation pact up to the year 2000, Tehran Radio reported.

It said Parliament Speaker Hashemi Karzai will sign the co-operation accord when he visits Moscow next month, the highest ranking Iranian leader to visit the Soviet capital.

The agreements underlined the rapidly cementing relations between Moscow and Tehran.

The economic protocol capped a week of meetings of the Soviet-Iranian

joint commission formed to promote co-operation.

The state-run radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the protocol was signed by the head of the joint commission, Soviet Roads Minister Nikolai Konarev, and Iran's Economic and Financial Affairs Minister, Mohammad Javed Iraimi.

Tehran has signed a string of economic agreements with Moscow in recent months.

Oil and gas-related industries, which have received top priority in Iran's reconstruction drive following the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the 8-year war with Iraq,

being rebuilt or augmented with Soviet help.

Tehran has agreed to export 2.3 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year to the Soviet Union, its northern neighbour, during the next Iranian year that starts March 21.

The Soviets will also co-operate in setting up oil rigs in the Caspian Sea starting next month. Tehran has also leased drilling equipment from the Soviets for the operations.

Konarev Wednesday signed an agreement with Iran's Roads and Transportation Minister, Mohammad Saeed Kia, to launch a joint shipping

line between the Soviet port of Baku and Iranian ports on the Caspian.

The network will comprise two ships from each country, and will transport 400,000 tons of goods to Iran, according to the agreement.

The Soviets have also agreed to electrify Iran's rail system and build a rail network in northeast Iran, linking up the cities of Mashhad, Sarakhs and Tajan, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported earlier this week.

The Soviets will help expand the capacity of the Ramin power plant in Ahvaz, Iran's southeastern oil capital,

and the Shahrood Montazeri plant in the central city of Isfahan, the radio said.

Soviet technicians will also upgrade facilities at the giant Isfahan steel mill to boost its capacity to 1.9 million tons a year.

The trade and construction agreements signed with the Soviet Union highlight the political importance with which Tehran views its new relationship with Moscow after years of strain.

The Soviets were Iraq's main arms supplier during the Gulf war. But now Tehran is looking increasingly to Soviet bloc countries for its military hardware

as it rebuilds its armed forces.

The importance of Soviet-Iranian relations was highlighted when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was granted a rare meeting with Ayatollah Khomeini, who had not received a foreign dignitary for years.

A month earlier, Khomeini sent an unprecedented personal letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, praising his policy of glasnost, or openness, urging him to study Islam.

In the latest high-ranking exchange, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati travelled to Moscow last month and met with Gorbachev.

Gradual increase in oil income promises boom

1989 will be take-off year for Kuwait banks

KUWAIT, May 21, (Reuters): Banks in Kuwait are looking forward to a bright future after years of shrunken oil revenues, the Gulf war on their doorstep and a mountain of debt from a stock market crash.

Five of the six commercial banks have reported higher profits for 1988, maintaining a trend begun after 1985 when mounting debts wiped out profits for several institutions.

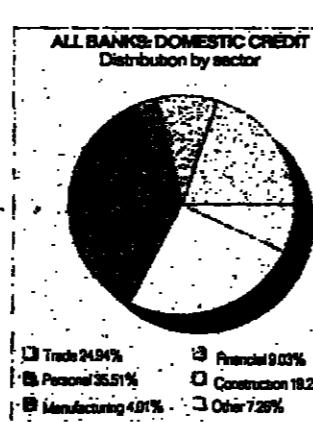
Bankers said a government rescue scheme introduced in 1986 had put the debt problem behind them. They said a gradual increase in oil revenues and greater stability following the Iran-Iraq ceasefire last August promised a boom.

"This year will be the take-off year for the banks," said Yusif Al Awadi, chief general manager of Gulf Bank.

Under its scheme, the government prepared plans, sometimes extending up to 15 years, to settle the loans of hundreds of victims of the 1982 Souk Al Manakh market crash.

It agreed to pump around 550 million dinars (\$1.86 billion) of free or low-interest deposits into the banks to shore them up.

Central Bank Governor Shukri Shukri and Jazeel Al Sabah said in a newspaper interview that all but eight of more than 1,240 problem debtors had responded to the



He said repayment schedules had been negotiated for loans worth more than two billion dinars (\$6.78 billion) an amount equal to about 40 percent of total outstanding credits to the private sector.

When the debt problem was at its height, the Iran-Iraq war compounded a sense of gloom about Kuwait's economy and dampened investment even further.

Bankers hope they will now be able to cash in by financing reconstruction projects in both countries.

Gulf Bank, in a statement released with its results, said it would seize the initiative by granting credit to companies involved in rebuilding projects in Iran and Iraq.

But bankers are quick to point out that, despite their optimism, few practical results have been seen so far.

"You can make a nice case for things getting better — the war has ended, oil prices are firming up," said one bank economist. "But despite that the economy is still pretty dead out there."

To encourage growth, the government has promised to redraft restrictive financial regulations over the next few years.

Burgan Bank, the last to report its results, said profits in 1988 climbed 11 per cent to 6.1 million dinars (\$2.06 million).

The National Bank of Kuwait, the country's largest and the only bank to cover loan loss provisions without government help, said profit increased 16 per cent to 30.9 million dinars (\$1.04 million).

Other banks reported profit rises ranging from eight to 14 per cent, except for Al Ahli Bank, whose profits fell to 4.3 million dinars (\$1.46 million) from 5.1 million (\$1.73 million) in 1987.

Part of the improvement has been made by cutting staff and expenses and streamlining operations, bankers said.

"That's not to say there still isn't scope for a lot of improvement, but the realisation that it has to be done is there," said one.

KD deposits slip further

KUWAIT, May 21, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates eased for a second consecutive day in dull trade as monthly salary payments flowed in, dealers said.

Overnight fell to trade at two per cent from Saturday's quotes of six five. Tomorrow-next also traded at two compared to quotes of eight seven. One week dropped to trade at three from quotes of eight seven.

However, one week firmed to 9-1/4-8-3/4 from 8-3/4-7-3/4.

One-month to one-year maturities were mostly steady at around 9-1/4-8-3/4. No trade was reported other than in one month, which dealt at 8-7/8.

The Central Bank kept its dinar to dollar exchange rate unchanged Saturday at 0.29484/94.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal deposits remained steady in a typically dull market, with fixed periods showing a flat yield curve for the second consecutive day.

Dealers reported virtually no activity even in short-dated funds, which were indicated steady at 9-3/4, 1/4 per cent.

Business normally slackens during the European weekend, when many major offshore banks are absent. Gulf banks are shut during the Muslim Friday weekend.

Rates for one-month to one-year deposits were unchanged at 9-3/4, 1/2 per cent.

N. Korea to buy 1m tons of Iranian oil

Plan to boost trade ties

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 21, (AP): Iran's trade with North Korea will double in the next year to \$500 million annually and Korea will import 1 million tons of oil. Construction Crusade Minister Gholamreza Forouzesh said today.

The developments underlined Iran's burgeoning links with the communist bloc, including the Soviet Union, while relations with the West deteriorate amid a radical resurgence.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying this was the result of the President Ali Khamenei's visit to North Korea and China earlier this month.

In return for the oil, the equivalent of 20,000 barrels of oil a day, North Korea will provide Iran with 15 machine tool plants and five 1,000-ton trawlers.

China and North Korea were Iran's two main arms suppliers in the latter phases of the 8-year war with Iraq and Western military analysts believe that Khamenei discussed future deliveries while he was in Beijing and Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

US and other officials believe that Iran, strapped for hard currency and faced with a massive post-war reconstruction programme, is using crude oil as barter for arms and industrial material in preference to borrowing and buying from the West.

Iranian officials have made no mention of arms in reports on Khamenei's tour, but said his visit underlines the growing links with the two Asian communist powers.

The English-language Tehran Times daily noted today that Khamenei's visit to China and North Korea will have far-reaching results and said it will mean "closer economic, commercial and technical co-operation ... despite certain fundamental differences."

Khamenei signed further economic agreements in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, which provide for building a bridge linking the port of Bandar Abbas with Qeshm island in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, a 1,000-megawatt power station in northern Iran and dredging the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway.

The Shatt forms the southern boundary between Iran and Iraq. But it has been closed since the Gulf war erupted in September 1980.

Analysts believe that one of the main objectives of Khamenei's tour was to obtain industrial machinery and plant for the reconstruction programme and a planned industrial expansion.

IMF team discusses loan facility

DAR ES SALAAM, May 21, (Reuters): Tanzanian leaders are holding talks with an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team on a new loan facility before the country's June budget, monetary officials said today.

IMF deputy director Richard Erb held talks yesterday with President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Prime Minister Joseph Wainaina in Dodoma, the future capital.

An official statement said they discussed prospects of an Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) and reviewed the present economic recovery programme which Erb described as "successful."

The facility was introduced by the IMF in 1987 with the aim of consolidating balance of payments support and increasing economic growth.

Diplomats said that although the fund was generally happy with the results achieved by Tanzania so far, it was worried by its slow pace in meeting IMF conditions.

Tanzania agreed last November to reform state-run banks and streamline inefficient crop marketing boards in return for a new loan. It also agreed to let the Tanzanian shilling slip from 130 shillings to 150 to the dollar by June this year.

Corporate raider bites back into UK market

Merger talks floundering

LONDON, May 21, (Reuters): Three of the world's richest businessmen — Anglo-French financier Sir James Goldsmith, his long-time banker friend Jacob Rothschild, and Kerry Packer of Australia — have snapped up nearly 30 per cent of British food giant Ranks Hovis McDougall PLC.

The £415-million (\$668-million) purchase of the RHM stake held by Australian and New Zealand food firm Goodman Fielder Wattie Ltd was announced yesterday by the trio's British-based Summingdale Holdings Ltd.

It marks the return to the British corporate arena of Goldsmith, 52, after nearly 10 years of working his financial wizardry in Paris and then on Wall Street.

His reputation as an astute corporate raider still sends

shivers down the spine of many British company executives.

Analysts said Summingdale's move appeared to set the stage for the break-up of Ranks Hovis, makers of popular brands like Mr Kipling Cakes and Mothers Pride Bread

Further co-operation urged

Lawson warns about problems with rising dollar

S'AGARO, Spain, May 21. (AP): Britain's finance chief expressed concern yesterday that the value of the dollar could soar to the high levels of the mid-1980s and spur greater protectionism in the United States.

"I think it's very important that that doesn't recur," Nigel Lawson, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, said at a meeting of European finance ministers on Spain's Costa Brava.

He urged further co-operation among the major industrialised nations to stem the unexpected pickup in the value of the dollar compared to other key currencies.

"It is very important that the international co-operation within the G-7 (the Group of Seven industrialised nations) is

sufficiently strong to avert it (too sharp an increase)," he said.

"There must be fears of a repetition of what happened (in 1983-85) when the dollar really rocketed into the stratosphere beyond all reason," he said.

Those high levels, he said, "led to an upsurge in protectionist sentiment within the United States."

Lawson spoke after a daylong meeting of the finance chiefs of the 12 nations that make up the European Economic Community.

The focus of their talks was on internal monetary and tax issues. Lawson said no mention was made of the dollar.

The dollar has surged sharply in recent weeks despite repeated attempts by central banks of the



Nigel Lawson



Helmut Kohl

leading industrialised nations to cool the rise.

Finance officials of the world's seven major industrial powers — United States, Britain, France,

West Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan — have pledged to work together to keep the value of the dollar stable.

The recent rise in the

American currency threatens their efforts. Lawson declined to speculate on what has prompted the pickup.

Some analysts and traders have attributed it to the bright economic outlook in the United States and the relatively high level of interest rates. Investors can earn more by putting their money in American investments than those of West Germany or Japan, for example.

Analysts also cite the political problems of West Germany and Japan as reasons investors may be more interested in dollars.

Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita has said he will step down because of a stock scandal.

The West German govern-

ment of Chancellor Helmut Kohl is struggling to maintain popular support. Kohl is embroiled in a dispute with the United States and Britain over future plans for short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

The United States and the six other economic powers began a drive in September 1985 to push the dollar lower as a way of reducing America's trade deficits and heading off protectionist moves in Congress.

The then-administration of President Ronald Reagan publicly renounced further moves to weaken the dollar in February 1987 in an agreement with its allies. In the Louvre accord, the major economies pledged to work to support the dollar's value at then-current levels.

Ministers avoid clash on monetary union

Talks give new push

S'AGARO, Spain, May 21. (Reuter): European Economic Community finance ministers agreed yesterday on tentative first steps towards monetary union but Britain made clear it would oppose ambitious plans for a common currency.

The 12 ministers staved off a public row during a day of informal talks, but failed to mask fundamental differences which had already surfaced in European capitals.

They left open the thorny question of how far the process of monetary union should go and effectively postponed major decisions until EEC heads of state meet in Madrid next month.

French Finance Minister Pierre Bergégooyen, one of the strongest advocates of a common currency, was confident that the talks had given a new push to monetary union after last month's publication of a plan drawn up by EEC central bankers.

"It is clear that the hour of truth is approaching," he told reporters. British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson went along with a proposal by other states to recommend that EEC leaders set in train preparatory work for an initial phase of monetary union.

"We are not prepared to agree to a new treaty," Lawson said at the end of the talks in a fashionable Costa Brava resort.

Other states notably West Germany, Denmark, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, also voiced reservations.

The report, drafted under the chairmanship of European Commission president Jacques Delors, sets out three stages for economic and monetary union.

Phase one urges closer co-operation and the entry of Britain, Spain, Portugal and Greece into the European Monetary System.

Phase two, requiring a new treaty or change in the EEC's founding charter, the treaty of Rome, envisages a federal system of central banks. In final phase EMS currency parties would be irrevocably locked, clearing the way for a single currency.

Delors said Britain had clearly wanted to avoid being isolated and added: "If you take stage one and forget the rest, that is not in line with the committee's report and it will be just one more failure."

Finance ministers appeared to be heading towards a compromise on plans to harmonise indirect taxation within the EEC after the commission drew up new proposals last week.

But plans for an EEC-wide tax on investment income, strongly advocated by France, looked doomed after a recent decision by West Germany to scrap its unpopular 10 per cent levy.

Spanish Finance Minister Carlos Solchaga said the ministers spoke at length and reached "minimum agreement" on the monetary plan at their meeting at a Costa Brava resort.

The finance ministers meet twice a year in an informal setting to hash over financial and monetary issues.

AMMAN

	OPEN	CLOS
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.90	1.90
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	2.05	2.09
ARAB BANK	148.5	147.7
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.50	4.50
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.00	2.00
ARAB INSURANCE	1.09	1.08
ARAB INT. INV./TRAD.	0.62	0.64
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.08	1.11
ARAB INTER.-HOTELS	1.18	1.17
ARAB JOR/INV/ST/BK	2.35	2.30
ARAB PAPER CO/IND	0.33	0.31
ARAB PHARMA/MANF.	3.63	3.63
ARAB PHARMA/CHM.	1.18	1.24
ARAB POTASH CO.	---	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	15.20	15.20
BETT AL-MAL/BEITNA	1.10	1.08
BELGUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO ARABIA BANK	31.00	30.00
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.40	0.38
DAR ALDAWA DIV/IRW.	2.42	2.48
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.83	0.84
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.60	4.60
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.27	1.25
GENERAL MINNING	2.10	2.10
HIMHEN MINERALS	0.75	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.77	0.77
INDSTR DEVLP BNK	1.65	1.65
INDSTR/COM/AGR.	1.69	1.71
INTERN.COM/INV.	0.75	0.75
KWT INV. CO.	0.13	0.13
IRIBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
INTERED/PETRI/CH	2.05	2.13
J. TOLR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29
JOB TOBACCO/CIGARET	19.75	19.00
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	2.03	2.08
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.49	1.49
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.00	1.05
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30
JOR INDUSTRY CHEN.	2.44	2.54
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83
JOR LIN BRICK	0.17	0.18
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.48	2.47
JOR PAPER CARDBROG	3.60	3.55
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.85	3.85
JOR PIPES MANUFAT	2.18	2.18
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.98	1.00
JOR SECURIT CORP	1.12	1.11
JOR SELPRO CHEM.	2.17	2.25
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	2.43	2.53
JOR WORSTED MILL	4.60	4.50
JOR KUWAIT AGRI	0.91	0.91
JOR PETROLEUM REF	7.84	7.78
JOR FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45
JOR INV. FIN.CORP	2.50	2.55
JORDAN GULF REAL	0.36	0.36
JORDAN DAIRY	0.96	0.97
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.18	1.19
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	3.41	3.40
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	1.99	1.98
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.40	1.41
JORDAN TANNING	2.05	2.06
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.71	0.71
MACH/EQU/RENT/MAIN	0.81	0.80
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
MID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.11
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.50	0.53
MIDDLE EAST INS.	2.00	2.02
MIMERAL RESEARCH	0.75	0.75
NAT.FIN.INVEST CO	1.90	1.90
NAT/CABLE/WIRE/MF	2.73	2.85
NATIONAL AHTIA INS	1.30	1.34
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.97	0.96
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.93	0.96
NATIONAL STEEL	2.85	2.88
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
PETRA BANK	2.45	2.45
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.35	0.35
PRECAST CONCRETE	1.17	1.21
RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	0.72	0.72
REAL ESTATE INV.	1.91	1.91
SHIPPING LINES	0.66	0.65
SPINNING WEAVING	1.17	1.22
THE HOUSING BANK	1.85	1.85
UNITED INSURANCE	1.20	1.21
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	3.25	3.40

	P. CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
BANK SECTOR	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	230000	14
-NATIONAL BANK	0.365	0.360	0.360	0.360	210000	14
-GULF BANK	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	30000	2
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.315	---	---	---	---	---
-AHILI BANK	0.320	---	---	---	---	---
-B.K.N.E	0.340	---	---	---	---	---
-BURGAM BANK	0.280	0.260	0.265	0.260	150000	10
-K.F. HOUSE	0.470	0.475	0.475	0.470	460000	14
INVESTMENT SECTOR	---	---	---	---	---	---
-KWT INV. CO.	0.095	---	---	---	---	---
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	---	---	---	---	---
-K.I.I.C.	0.070	---	---	---	---	---
-COM.FACILITIES	0.420	---	---	---	---	---
-AHILIAN INV.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-I.F.A.	0.043	---	---	---	---	---
-INV. PEARL KWT	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.087	1109949	2
-NATIONAL INV.	0.065	---	---	---	---	---
-KWT PROJECTS	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	40000	1
SERVICES SECTOR	---	---	---	---	---	---
-KWT INSURANCE	0.570	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF INSURANCE	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-AHILA-INS. CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-VARBA INS. CO.	0.340</					

CONSERVATION

Genocide!

By Walter Ellis

INCREDULOUS, the world is awakening this month to the animal equivalent of the Holocaust. The African elephant, the largest creature still walking the earth and the continent's universal symbol, is being hunted to extinction.

Greed for ivory — particularly in Japan and the Middle East — has reached such proportions that armies of poachers, heavily armed and utterly ruthless, are roaming Africa, crossing frontiers and slaughtering whole herds of elephant virtually at will.

Those left alive are mostly orphans, growing up without their natural inheritance of family guidance and discipline.

Instead of occasional rogue elephants, we have scattered communities of delinquents, wondering what they are supposed to do to behave properly as members of their kind. They are lost and cruelly confused — betrayed by an uncaring enemy grown mad with war and the lust for riches. When their tusks develop, they too will die.

All the great elephant nations in Africa are affected, from Sudan to South Africa. But it is Zimbabwe, acting on the personal instructions of

President Robert Mugabe, which has decided, belatedly, to take a Last Stand.

Elite troops of the country's First Parachute Regiment have been mobilised to take on the bandits, mainly from Mozambique, and the hope is that, if his strategy succeeds, not only the giant animals themselves but the very concept of national sovereignty in Africa will have been rescued from an elephants graveyard.

Mugabe is aware of the elephant's elemental appeal. He is personally distressed by the cynical, short-sighted selfishness which has led to its 15 years.

Sustain
To sustain its long war against the MPLA government in Maputo, the MNR has taken increasingly to the contraband ivory trade, and the abundant herds of neighbouring Zimbabwe are the principal target.

A pair of tusks can be worth as much as £30,000, and the death of a herd of 20 adults can therefore net some half a million pounds, at little cost to the assailants. So lucrative, indeed, has the trade become that many MNR members have effectively abandoned their political pretences and taken full-time to poaching.

If action is not taken soon at an international level, he says, there will be no African elephants left alive in the wild

by the year 2000.
Logan's film, made in the most difficult of conditions in Goma-re-Zhou, a unique wilderness sanctuary bordering Mozambique, deals with the attempt by eight Zimbabwean paras to track down and kill a particularly murderous band of ivory poachers.

The poachers are members of the Mozambique National Resistance, the MNR, a squallid, South African-backed grouping with no known ideology, which has been terrorising the former Portuguese colony for the last 15 years.

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Each year for the last 10



In the killing fields of Africa, a soldier surveys the remains of the once-mighty elephant killed for their tusks.



Satisfying greed and consumer vanity: a Chinese ivory carver applies finishing touches to a carved figurine. Elephant tusks (left) are gold to poachers.

A Place of Skulls chronicles the 1st Paras' efforts to dispense their rough justice. We are shown the results of an MNR raid on a remote Zimbabwean village, where men have been bludgeoned to death, women assaulted and children thrown into a fire.

When a group of guerrilla scouts are finally located, two are shot dead and a third escorted out of sight of the camera for field interrogation. Everywhere there are the bleached bones and giant skulls of elephants. Their tusks have been wrenched from their jaws, their flesh picked clean by scavengers.

These killing fields have become an African commonplace. In Kenya, Somali raiders are responsible for a savage onslaught that has at last prompted President Daniel arap Moi to follow Mr Mugabe's lead and implement a policy of shoot-to-kill. Somalis are also blamed for incursions into Tanzania, where the national elephant herd, once 60,000-strong, has been reduced to a handful.

South Africa, meanwhile, fears that when it finally withdraws its forces from Namibia, the territory's elephants will be cut to pieces within two years by raiders from Angola and Botswana. In Uganda, after the years of lawlessness and carnage that began with Idi Amin, it is already too late. Sudan's endless civil war has similarly put paid to that country's once-abundant elephant population, while in Zaire an illegal trade is carried out largely via the adjacent mini-republic of Burundi.

Having killed the elephants and removed their tusks, poachers sell their wares to merchants in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore — often via the Gulf states or South Africa — where ivory seals, ashtrays, chess sets and sculptures are produced to meet a seemingly insatiable demand. It is an irony that a trade so soaked in blood should exist to satisfy casual vanity.

A regulated, official market, intended to conserve the source of ivory, does, of course, exist, and there is continuing pressure to strengthen regulatory powers and even to ban the trade

completely. Hong Kong, for example, no longer imports raw, unworked ivory except through approved routes. But Hong Kong-run factories in the Gulf bend the rules by part-processing the ivory first. In any case, the flood of wholly illegal ivory is not bound by quotas and constraints, depending entirely on smuggling and guile.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund) is pressing Western governments to tighten up existing laws on ivory trading, to dissuade Eastern nations from providing financial incentives to poaching, and to assist African nations in its eradication.

Tanzania, which has recently produced a crisis report on its own elephant population, has called on Britain to apply pressure on Hong Kong's ivory industry and to back a global ban on all ivory processing. So far, London has refused. It must, says the government first confer with its European partners.

Ian McIntyre, spokesman for the WWF, says that at least £10 m needs to be raised worldwide just for monitoring the destruction and compiling intelligence on which groups would like a Pan African Animal Task Force to be established, funded by the West, which would act on the latest intelligence and protect elephants, as well as other endangered species, on a supranational basis.

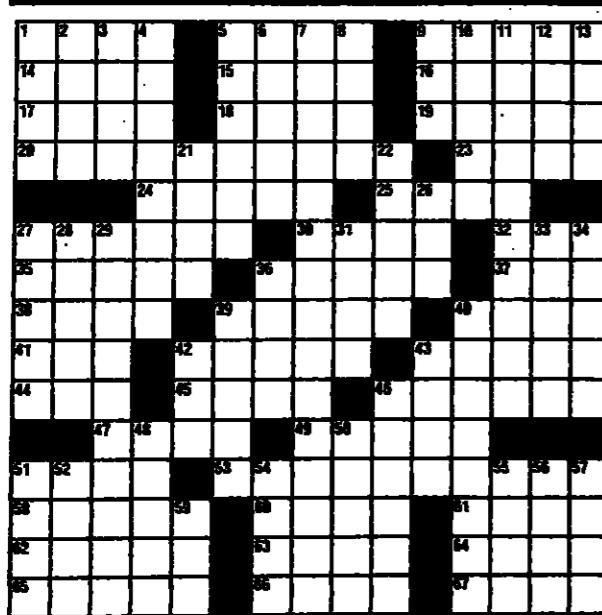
Convince
"We have to convince Black Africa that there is no loss of face involved in accepting there is a problem," he says. "Africans do not own the elephants. They belong to all of us. They are merely the custodians."

No-one doubt that time is rapidly running out. Elephants, so touching in their delicacy and dignity, so obviously intelligent and socially concerned for herd members of all ages, are running scared in the face of an unprecedented onslaught.

A regulated, official market, intended to conserve the source of ivory, does, of course, exist, and there is continuing pressure to strengthen regulatory powers and even to ban the trade

They are psychologically disturbed.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Shaw's — and the Man
5 Ritzy
9 Recorded
14 Meander
15 Poet Millay
16 — and kicking
17 — mater
18 Anthracite
19 Get going
20 Falling prices, on Wall Street
23 Bank (on)
24 Uptight
25 Vocalist
27 Muddy or Ethel
30 — of Man
32 "King" Cole
35 Maltreat
36 Leg joints
37 Haste
38 Malicious gossip
39 Spouses
40 Minute opening
41 NYC time
42 Solemn promises
43 Songwriter: Harold
44 — Rio, Texas
45 Yew, for one
46 Rapid
47 Highway sign
48 Stares
51 Put up a picture
53 Intelligence
58 "The Marriage of Figaro," for one
60 Space agency
61 Stagger
62 Prepared potatoes
63 Actress Miles
55 Au natural
66 All crosses
67 First garden
DOWN
1 Native of

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A1043 ♠K ♦AKR742 ♣QJ Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—While you have a very good hand, you have no fit for partner and your suit is not self-sufficient. For the moment, two diamonds is adequate. Beware of a potential mixit.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦A1043 ♠5 ♦AKQJ42 ♣93 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—Even though it is unlikely that partner has four hearts, there is no reason why you should not complete the picture of your hand. Bid three hearts. You have no tenaces, so there is no reason why you should want to declare no trump, if that is to be the final resting place.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦K5 ♠A10943 ♠10 ♦A1092 The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH West North East South
3 ♠ Dbl Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Since partner is likely to have length in both majors, chances for any large offensive bonanza should be discounted—we would be more interested if our red suits were reversed. It is simply question of whether to convert for penalties. Although we are still 2-to-1 favorites to win the rubber, we feel a bid of three no trump has more to gain, but we don't fault anyone for electing to defend by passing.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K5 ♠KQ107 ♠QJ762 ♣A7 The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—What's the problem? Just re-bid your six-card suit—two hearts. You are not strong enough to bid three clubs, which is a "high reverse" and shows extra values.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦K5 ♠A10943 ♠10 ♦A1092 The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH West North East South
3 ♠ Dbl Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—This time you need have no fear about a possible misfit—your diamond suit stands on its own merits; it can serve as the trump suit even if partner is void! Jump to three diamonds to flash the slam signal at once, despite the fact that you have no support for partner.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦A66 ♠1098 ♠543 ♣Q743 The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—The modern way is to treat partner's overcall as if it were an opening bid. Since you would have raised an opening bid of one spade to two spades, make that bid now.

THE WIZARD OF ID

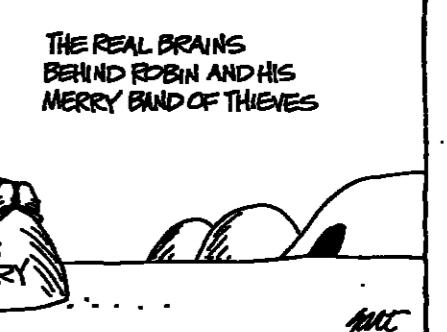
By Brent Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart

B.C.

motherhood



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be better able to deal with a practical problem. Think well before you act. Do not rely too much on others. Be less impatient.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should have a little more faith in yourself. You will be better able to face facts. You should not delay dealing with a rather tricky problem. Be cordial.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be more persuasive and this will help you to stay on good terms with your colleagues. You will be able to do something more positive. You should not expect others to do just what you want them to do. Be flexible.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will be in the right frame of mind to confront a problem you have been putting to one side. You will be able to do a friend a favour.

Make sure your partner is in no doubt about your love. Be more willing to learn.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You should not allow some small disappointment to spoil your day. Do not shy away from attending to something unpleasant that will not go away of its own accord. Try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Be tactful.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

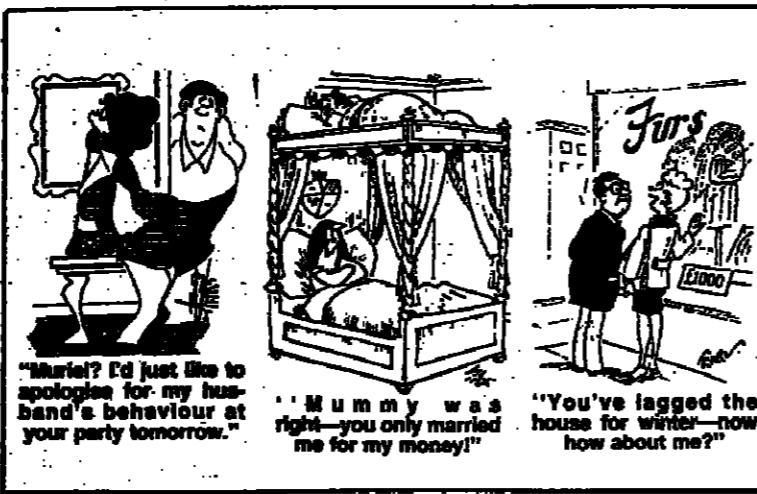
The Moon's better influence will help you to do your best. You should listen more closely to what others are saying. You will be more receptive to new ideas. Be reliable.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will find a better way of doing what you have always done a certain way. You should make sure you do not permit yourself to be distracted. You will have plenty of energy but must not dissipate it. Be a little more tidy.

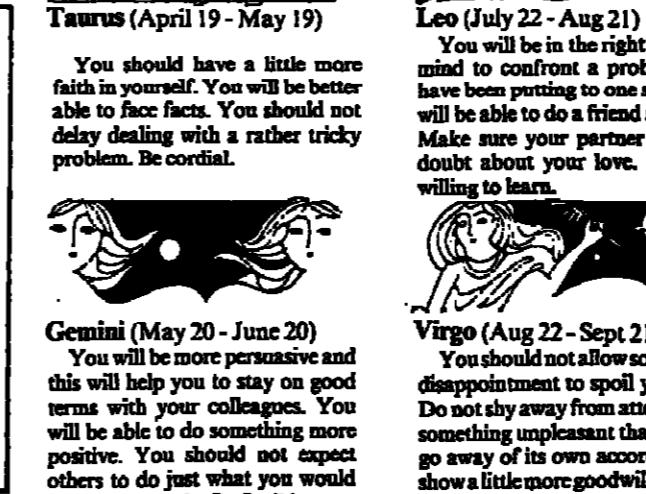
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BEAGLE IMP TOA
APPEAL VOUCHING
RESOWS APPLEPIE
DEER JIAN SENTON
GREETES FRONT
SCREE SHIN YES
YVETTE EGEST
RICHARD THE THIRD
ERINIE SEENTO
PAT FERRIS TENET
SETHS TRICHI
UNITED ICH GNAW
SPARE RIB AT HOME
HARDSELL SETTER
TILS WEE ETHEANE



"Marie! Ed just like to apologize for my husband's behaviour at your party tomorrow."

"Mum my was right—you only married me for my money!"



"You've lagged the house for winter—now how about me?"

13



Brando Back
Marlon Brando returns to the movie wars after a decade away to star with Matthew Broderick in *The Freshman* filming on locations in New York and Toronto for TriStar Pictures.

The Freshman, an original comedy by Andrew Bergman — who will also direct the film — marks Brando's first starring role in a major motion picture in more than 10 years.

Brando most recently appeared with Susan Sarandon in a cameo role in *The Dry White Season*, which has yet to be released.

Liz working on TV

Elizabeth Taylor began work this week in the NBC-TV two-hour movie version of *Sweet Bird of Youth*, with Mark Harmon sharing top billing with the two-time Academy award winner.

Also in the cast are Rip Torn and Valerie Perrine under the aegis of producers Donald Kushner, Peter Locke and Linda Yellen.

Lia Taylor The screenplay was written by Gavin Lambert, based on Tennessee Williams' drama. Nicholas Roeg is the director.

Davis hosts

Sammy Davis Jr. will host the New York broadcast portions of this year's Jerry Lewis Labour Day Telethon benefiting the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The 22-hour telethon will originate from Las Vegas with Jerry Lewis carrying the main thrust of the telethon with help from a host of motion picture and TV stars and sports celebrities.

The Labour Day Telethon, Sept. 3, is broadcast by some 200 TV stations in North America and brings in tens of millions of dollars every year from donations by viewers.

Connery signed

Sean Connery will star with Alec Baldwin in *The Hunt for Red October* for Paramount Pictures, replacing Klaus Maria Brandauer in the role of a Soviet submarine commander.

Brandauer was forced to withdraw from the role because of a scheduled conflict that requires the Austrian-born actor to direct *The Artisan* in Europe.

Connery assumed the starring role of Marko Alexovich Ramius, captain of the Soviet Union's most advanced nuclear submarine. The film is based on Tom Clancy's best-selling novel and will be directed by John McTiernan.

Poitier directs

Sidney Poitier has begun directing *Ghost Dad*, starring tele-vision's Bill Cosby in a comedy about a single parent whose encounter with the supernatural teaches him it's never too late to get in touch with his kids.

The cast features Denise Nicholas, Kimberly Russell, Ian Bannon and a trio of newcomers as the children.

The Universal Pictures comedy is being produced by Stanley G. Robinson and Terry Nelson from a script written by Phil Alden Robinson.

Country TV Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers and Willie Nelson will perform together for the first time in an NBC-TV special titled *Kenny, Dolly & Willie: Something Inside So Strong*.

The musical special was taped in Rogers' hometown of Houston during an open-air concert for 15,000 NASA employees and families at the Johnson Space Centre.

The trio will sing a medley of each other's hits. As a finale all three will sing the title song *Something Inside So Strong*.

Vanessa at 52 – still a rebel

Redgrave's talent has enabled her to overcome establishment outrage over her radical political beliefs and today she is widely regarded as one of the most talented actresses of her generation.

By Nicola Tyrer

VANESSA REDGRAVE'S first film was a hospital drama in which she played a surgeon's daughter. The role required her to be vamped up with false eyelashes, false breasts, even false lips painted in "hairy bows" outside her own self-confessedly thin ones.

The fact that we find this so incongruous speaks volumes about the way the public sees Vanessa Redgrave today. At 52, an age when many actresses complain that roles vapourise, she is doing rather well. Not only does she do three or four plays a year — her last was *Orpheus Descending* by Tennessee Williams, in which her portrayal of a middle-aged woman in love with a younger man won universal acclaim — but most years she picks up an award as well. Her talent has enabled her to overcome Establishment outrage over her radical political beliefs and today she is widely regarded as one of the most talented actresses of her generation.

I asked her, in a grimy room in Hammersmith, where she was rehearsing a *Madhouse in Goa*, how she felt about ageing, both as an actress and as a woman. Was there still a dearth of parts for older women, or is our obsession with youth and beauty at last evolving into a more honest portrayal of the female?

"I think things are improving slightly for older actresses. A few movies have helped *Harold and Maude*, for example, with Ruth Gordon; *A Passage to India*

with Peggy Ashcroft.

"Then there are people like Kate Hepburn, who has kept on working by being awfully good and by regarding herself as an actress first and foremost. But there are many superb actresses of her generation who do not have much work and I am constantly amazed at how youth-fixated TV is: all those actresses who have had facelifts — I can tell because I know how old they really are. The pressure to stay young is enormous."

She herself has visibly resisted that pressure. She was wearing a pair of baggy white trousers, selected more for comfort than allure, and scruffy trainers. Her wispy fair hair was not squeaky clean and her vivid forget-me-not eyes, set in a face that has always been intelligent rather than pretty, have been accentuated with the merest hint of mascara.

Courage

She says she has her ex-husband Tony Richardson to thank for her liberated attitude to getting older. "When he was making *The Charge of the Light Brigade* he would not let anyone wear make-up, not even mascara. It was the first time it had been done. The result was that you saw the true individuality of everyone in that film. I was really struck when I saw it. It set a standard I have tried to follow ever since."

"Tony Richardson gave me the courage, where it is appropriate, to look as I am. In the Seagull I played a young girl



Vanessa Redgrave: things are improving for older actresses

of 20 when I was in fact 30. I used no make-up. I used none in the Bostonians, which was about women's emancipation, and very little in O'Neill's *A Touch of the Poet*. It is important not to have a barrier between the actors and the audience, and make-up is a barrier. I don't like seeing make-up on men, or even women, in Shakespeare — unless the woman is a courtesan or Elizabeth I, who we know painted her face an inch thick. "My decisions not to wear

makeup on stage have been taken for dramatic reasons. But it is a relief not feeling obliged, as many actresses do, as they get older, to keep up an image at all costs."

Her own mother, Rachel Kempson, she points out, is an older actress who is still working for her living, and, in her opinion, doing "superb" work.

"I have always admired her as an actress. I've learnt a lot from a wonderful piece of film of her playing Juliet at 70. It is

absolutely enthralling because you realise that everything depends on what is coming out of a person. It is a major lesson in inner conviction and the ability to identify with someone in a certain situation."

Despite being a member of such a grand theatrical dynasty and obviously used to attention being focused on her, Vanessa Redgrave is meticulously polite and comes across as a nice person. Before starting our interview she introduced me to



1959: budding actress



1968: Vietnam War protestor



1978: Oscar winner

the entire cast, and was solicitous that I should join her in her lunch-break snack of Greek "dips" and pitta bread. The legacy, doubtless, of a past bushes with the press is a reserve which causes her, disconcertingly, to mull questions over in silence before replying in a slow and deliberate manner. Only when she talks of conditions in the theatre today does she drop her guard and allow the words to come tumbling out.

Her admiration for her mother is mirrored by her pride in her daughters, Joey and Natasha Richardson. "I think they are really exceptional actresses and that amazes and thrills me. I get very excited when I watch them act because I know I couldn't have done it at their age. Joey's TV series *Behaving Badly* was brilliant."

"This whole generation of actors is head and shoulders above what we were. It's attributable largely to the opportunities they have had to see foreign films and theatre."

"It's destroying standards and jobs. My parents' generation fought to have subsidy for the arts. I've seen people kill themselves — literally — to make good theatre available."

"George Devine, the founder

of the Royal Court, ruined his health fighting to raise money for new writing, to encourage talented young actors to break new ground. Brecht, Ionesco, Miller

were all performed for the first time at the Royal Court, as was John Osborne and the whole string of brilliant young writers who followed him. They paid themselves starvation wages, but the results were stupendous."

"All the finest actors of my generation and those 10 years younger came through the Royal Court. We are still living off that momentum. Instead of using it as a basis for advancing further, it is being destroyed. We should be able to put on the work of new writers (*A Madhouse in Goa* is the first new play in which Redgrave has appeared in 17 years). Old writers, interesting writers. People will stop writing if their work is not performed."

One thing that cheer her is the current revival of interest in the work of Tennessee Williams. She points out that *Orpheus Descending* was booted off the stage at its first public performance in 1957 because it attacked racism. She admires William's writing because it is "passionate, sensitive, poetic and realistic, too."

Multi-million dollar palimony suit

Tough guy Clint faces dirty war

By Baz Bamigboye

EVEN for the man who is Dirty Harry, inured to the savage blows that life can deal, the way that reality is suddenly imitating art must be peculiarly galling.

It is almost 20 years since Clint Eastwood directed his first film, *Play Misty For Me*. In it, the granite faced icon plays a public figure who spurns a woman who has shared his bed. She retaliates by trying to kill him.

Today there are those in Hollywood who are asking whether Eastwood's life-in-love of 11 years, actress Sondra Locke, is about to murder him financially.

Recently it was announced that she had taken out a multi-million dollar palimony suit. Sondra claims that the actor persuaded her to have two abortions and evicted her from her home in Los Angeles along with her pet parrot.

She also claims that Eastwood asked her to have an operation to prevent her becoming pregnant.

Last week Sondra's lawyer, Norman Oberstein, said that the actress would be seeking unspecified damages and an equal division of the property she and Eastwood had acquired together including four opulent homes and a ranch.

Asked if the palimony battle was going to be as dirty as one of Eastwood's movies, Oberstein replied: "Your answer may be in the fact that earlier this month Mr Eastwood changed the locks of Miss Locke's home and removed her possessions, including a pet parrot."

For Eastwood, one of the wealthiest men in Hollywood, the breakup is replete with ironies.

Exactly 11 years ago he was reputed to have one of the fabled Hollywood "happy" marriages — to Maggie Johnson, a former part-time model.

They had married in their early twenties when he was just a petrol station attendant. They had two children, and she struggled with him through the early hard days until his pivotal starring role in *Rawhide*.

Eleven years ago, too, Eastwood fell in love with Sondra Locke. It was three years after they first met, and she, despite an Academy Award nomination for *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, was still regarded as a minor actress with little star potential.



Leading lady off-screen: Clint and Sondra

By all accounts the middle-aged Eastwood became obsessed by the waifish blonde. His marriage to Maggie crumbled and when their 30-year union finally ended she received an estimated \$25 million dollar settlement.

It asks much about her that, unlike her younger rival, she has never revealed intimate details about Eastwood.

All she has confessed is that marriage made her feel like "the woman with no name." "I was this big Hollywood star's wife yet I never had any identity of my own," she said.

In some ways, it is easy to see why Eastwood fell for Sondra, who with her child-like, long blonde hair is dwarfed by his 6ft 4in.

She stands out among Hollywood beauties, not so much in terms of her looks, but in her comparative eccentricity. In a town of tanned celebrities, she muffles up in cardigans against the sun, maintaining her startlingly pale skin tone. She chooses, too, to wear delicate Victorian jewellery. Drawn to images of childhood, though childless, she collects children's book illustrations.

Uninterested in the party circuit she spends hours gardening in a movie capital where most celebrities employ armies of gardeners.

Her waifish eccentricity, however, hides a tough ambition. And close friends were not surprised when the besotted Eastwood star-

ted casting her in starring roles in his major movies.

There are many critics who think they are some of the worst he ever made. From *The Gauntlet* to *Sudden Impact*, his wooden acting seemed to numb his undoubted cinematic skills.

Creatively speaking, Delilah was emasculating Samson, but despite this a wedding ring evaded her.

Interviewed two years ago, Sondra said that she didn't see "marriage and children on the cards any more". But later she was said to have been given a diamond ring by her lover.

A year ago, at the Cannes Film Festival, Eastwood hinted that he and Sondra might marry. But within months the affair had deteriorated to the extent that the tough-guy star was rumoured to be dating other women, leaving the green-eyed actress in a "jealous rage".

If Clint Eastwood feels fury today, following the filing of Sondra's suit last week, it may well be at what he sees as the violation of his well-guarded privacy.

In going public, Sondra has broken his number one golden rule — silence.

Now, in the file room of the Los Angeles Superior Court, intimate details of the affair between the two have been laid bare.

Locke tells of the flinty-eyed anti-hero of the spaghetti westerns and *Dirty Harry* films told her he wanted her exclusive companion without the burden of children. In the law suit, it is alleged that "an agreement was made that she would attend to all his personal needs, and in general conduct herself and do all the things that Eastwood's wife would do."

In return their "property and their earnings would be shared equally." And, said Sondra's lawyer, Eastwood agreed to support Sondra for her lifetime.

He added: "Essentially Sondra was Eastwood's wife in everything but name and she needs to be compensated for that."

Sondra Locke's sensational revelations have rocked Hollywood because the waif who shunned the limelight was regarded as being "quiet and shy".

Maybe a clue to her guerrilla tactics is provided by her second film as a director.

Called *Impulse*, the film stars Theresa Russell, who plays a hard-bitten narcotics officer who moonlights as an undercover vice cop.



Brigitte Bardot

SIXTIES sex goddess Brigitte Bardot is making a return to the screen after 16 years as a semi-recluse.

Bardot, who is to present a French TV series, will have a new look and hairstyle. But details of her new image remain top secret until the first broadcast goes out later this month.

In the programme — called SOS — she gives no quarter as a passionate defender of endangered animals. The first programme focuses on the plight of the African elephant and the illegal ivory trade.

After 46 films, BB turned her back on stardom in 1973 and devoted her life to animals. She lived surrounded by cats and dogs at her home in the South of France.

Talents

She sold her jewellery to finance the Brigitte Bardot Foundation and rarely emerged into the public eye. "I am no longer a sex symbol, just a spokeswoman," said the 55-year-old star.

Now in the belief that animals face greater danger than ever, she has agreed to deploy her talents to try to stir world opinion.

Bardot has chosen the subjects herself," said producer Jean-Louis Remmieux. "The first show has cost more than £100,000 for just 52 minutes."

THE widow of comic genius Peter Sellers faces a bitter legal battle after stopping a film about his life.

Lynne Frederick explained: "I read the script and cried for three days. It made me quite ill."

More than one million dollars had been spent on planning the film biography, described by the would-be makers as an "official" tribute to Sellers. Then Miss Frederick, 35, withdrew her backing.

Now producer Anthony Haas and his partner, Brian Morris, say they will sue Miss Frederick, who was left Sellers' \$4 million fortune when he died of a heart attack in 1980, aged 54.

They claim she had approved the script, had been paid a big advance and had even handed over the star's private home movies.

Debated

"We are devastated," said Haas. "We shall be seeking the return of money paid to her."

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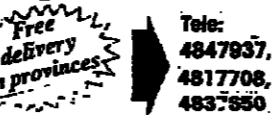
For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering, carpet & villa cleaning. We are at your service, with skilled workers.
Contact Mr Stanley tel: 4748877/
4731004. Timeline 8.00 am - 1.00 pm and 4.00 - 8.00 pm. Al Mowasseh Trig.

Female Secretary required

With minimum experience of 4 years in the field of secretarial work. Should be able to handle self correspondence, typing, telex, filing and holding a transferable residence.
Contact the following telephone No. from 8 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm.
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ACCOMMODATION Available

ACCOMMODATION Available

SALMIYA, behind "Video Lotus" near the garden. One spacious room in a flat with facilities for Indian bachelors to share with an Indian Muslim family. Bus routes 24, 27, 45. Rent KD55. Tele. Mr. Ismail, 5652741.

(AT2-47422-3)
QADSIYA, Block 8, Street 86, House 5, villa with 5 rooms, for a family only. Bus routes 18, Rent KD55. Tele. Majed, 2544322, 2-9 pm.

(AT2-47426-3)
KUWAIT City, opp. Al Muthanna Complex, Fahd Al Salem St. Two rooms for bachelors. Tele. 2421040, 2421045-45, 1-2 pm and 7-10 pm.

(AT2-47427-3)
OFF Bagdad Street, near the Golden Bookshop, small room for a Filipino or Indian girl to share with a Goan family. Tele. Raymond, 5621727, 10 am - 6 pm.

(AT2-47428-3)
RIGGAE, one semi-furnished spacious room in a 2-bedroom flat, with tea facilities, for one single bachelor or working lady, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD60. Tele. 4894758.

(AT2-47388-3)

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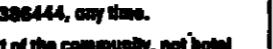
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SALMIYA, behind "Video Lotus" near the garden. One spacious room in a flat with facilities for Indian bachelors to share with an Indian Muslim family. Bus routes 24, 27, 45. Rent KD55. Tele. Mr. Ismail, 5652741.

(AT2-47422-3)
SALWA, Block 7, Street 4, House 198. One big room with kitchen facilities, water and electricity for a family or bachelor. Rent KD50. Tele. 5611243.

(AT2-47406-3)

KEFAN, ground floor of a villa with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, swimming pool, central AC, very clean. Rent KD50. Tele. 2626484, 4-9 pm.

(AT2-47412-3)

SALWA, new flat with 3 bedrooms, 2 saloons, 2 baths, CAC. Rent KD280 including water and electricity. Tele. 5324848.

(AT2-47432-3)

QURTUBA, one floor of deluxe villa, CAC with 5 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3 bathrooms, intercom and separate entrance. Rent KD250. Tele. 3717694.

(AT2-47419-3)

RIGGAE, one semi-furnished spacious room in a 2-bedroom flat, with tea facilities, for one single bachelor or working lady, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD60. Tele. 4894758.

(AT2-47388-3)

CARVED rosewood bar with 4 stools, KD120, hand painted cabinet KD95, set of 3 tables, KD35 leather rug KD55, disco table KD35. Two stools, KD15 each. Tele. 4892564 ext. 57, 10 am - 7 pm.

(AT2-47417-3)

MODEL electric train set. Fleischmann HO complete with owner designed landscape 0.130 x 2.30 m for sale, KD500. On display at Regency Palace Hotel, German hobby exhibition from 23rd May to 27 May '89. Tele. 5656878.

(AT2-47353-3)

MITSUBISHI Lancer, 1984, AC, automatic, 4 doors, very reliable, practical, in good condition. KD700 cash. Tele. 3901546 ext. 19, 4-6 pm.

(AT2-47332-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt, 1986, dark blue, automatic, AC, 4 doors, insured up to Dec 89, 40,000 kms, KD1,000, cash or instalments. Tele. 2401908.

(AT2-47322-3)

HONDA Accord EXR, 1985, fully automatic, white, blue interior, one careful owner. In very good condition. Tele. 3717062, 8 am - 1 pm only.

(AT2-47332-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant, Super Saloon 1984, automatic transmission, AC, green colour, 77,000 kms, full options. Insured up to Nov '89 in excellent condition. KD975. Tele. Jimmy, 4837584, 7.30 am - 1 pm.

(AT2-47365-3)

MAZDA 929 Limited, 1982, 5-speed, manual, AC, tilt wheel, power windows, 2-door, blue, in excellent condition, KD700 cash. Tele. 3901546 ext. 267, 11 am - 7 pm.

(AT2-THR-MJ-3)

SAAB 900 Turbo, 1982 model, automatic, white, in very good condition, KD925, cash. Tele. Mr. John, 5519202 ext. 125, after 3 pm.

(AT2-47420-2)

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MOTHER care available with children-loving lady in Juleeb Al Shiyukh, opp. the petrol pump. Tele. 4313580.

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MAID required for a Kuwaiti family to live-in. Tele. 4844942.

(AT3-47429-3)

Wanted

A GENTLEMAN with 15 years' experience seeks job as an auto-electrician, marine electrician or as motor diesel and petrol mechanic. Tele. 4330082, 8 am - 12 noon, 4-8 pm.

(AT1-47383-3)

MAID, Sri Lankan, with good English and good house keeping experience, seeks part-time job with English families, preferably live-in. Tele. 5320443, 8 am - 12 noon only.

(AT2-47411-3)

WELL experienced Sri Lankan driver/housemaid, couple, with Kuwaiti driving licence and transferable visa, seeking employment under one employer. Tele. 3911181, 3911591.

(AT3-47418-3)

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Fencing body upholds Vaccaroni doping ban

ROME, May 21. (Reuters) - The International Fencing Federation yesterday upheld the suspension of Italy's former world champion Dorina Vaccaroni for allegedly using a banned drug and said in future fencing would be subject to a maximum of two dope tests.

A statement issued after a meeting of fencing federations in Paris confirmed the sixth-month ban on Vaccaroni, 1983 women's foil world champion and 1984 Olympic bronze medallist, which began on May 10.

Vaccaroni, tested after a World Cup event in West Germany in February, has denied using banned drugs. The test showed traces of the prohibited substance nikethamide.

The federation also adopted a proposal by the Italian Fencing Association to reduce to two the number of tests carried out on fencers instead of the three laid down under present regulations.

Following protests from the Italian body in the wake of the Vaccaroni case, the international federation also drew up new guidelines to ensure that the conditions in which competitors' urine samples were taken and tested for the presence of banned substances were as stringent as possible.

Lakers hold off Suns

Johnson turns on the magic

INGLEWOOD, California, May 21. (AP) - With Magic Johnson on the bench due to foul trouble, the Los Angeles Lakers got help from some unexpected sources.

Orlando Woolridge scored nine of his 13 points in the final 16 minutes, blocked a shot and was a force under the boards as the Lakers, led by James Worthy's 32 points, beat the Phoenix Suns 127-119 in the opener of the Western Conference finals Saturday.

Player reserves Mychal Thompson and Michael Cooper also played well in the nine minutes that Johnson missed.

"Orlando was great, Worthy was great, Mychal Thompson was great," Johnson said. "Our bench really won it."

But Johnson came back to play a key role as the Lakers remained unbeaten in eight playoff games this season and won their 10th consecutive post-season game over two seasons, a National Basketball Association record.

Johnson left with 4:07 remaining in the third quarter after drawing his fifth foul, a charging call negating a layup that would have given the Lakers an 82-75 lead.

He returned with just over seven minutes left in the fourth



Magic Johnson

quarter and hit a long jumper with 7:03 remaining to put the Lakers ahead for good at 101-100. Johnson then had four assists and made a layup with 3:37 left, giving Los Angeles a 111-106 lead.

He fouled out with 2:23 left,

finishing with 18 points and 12 assists.

Eddie Johnson scored with 2:00 to go, pulling the Suns to 116-111. But Woolridge had a stuff and hit a free throw to complete a three-point play with 1:35 remaining for an eight-point lead.

Phoenix, which lost for the first time in four road playoff games, got 20 points from Jeff Hornacek and 15 from Tom Chambers — who had been averaging 26. Armon Gilliam added 14.

Game 2 is scheduled for Tuesday night at the Forum.

Worthy, who was just one point shy of his 1989 playoff high, said the Lakers didn't worry with Magic Johnson out.

"Magic's been out before," Worthy said. "We've learned that we can't sit around and wait for him to come back. We have to keep playing and not worry."

"The bench was crucial today," Worthy added. "The guys played remarkably well."

Los Angeles led 91-89 after three quarters but the Suns went ahead for the first time since early in the game at 92-91 when Kevin Johnson made a three-point play nine seconds into the fourth quarter. Los Angeles went back in front on Thompson's layup and Worthy's dunk.

"I wanted to be in a situation where I could do something extra," Woolridge said. "I felt good the coach (Pat Riley) had the confidence to have me out there and equally good that I could respond."

The difference today was the performance of O (Woolridge)

and Cooper," Riley said. "It's going to take eight guys to beat this team."

Scott scored 24 and AC Green 18 for the Lakers, who have won 13 straight games since losing to the Los Angeles Clippers on April 15.

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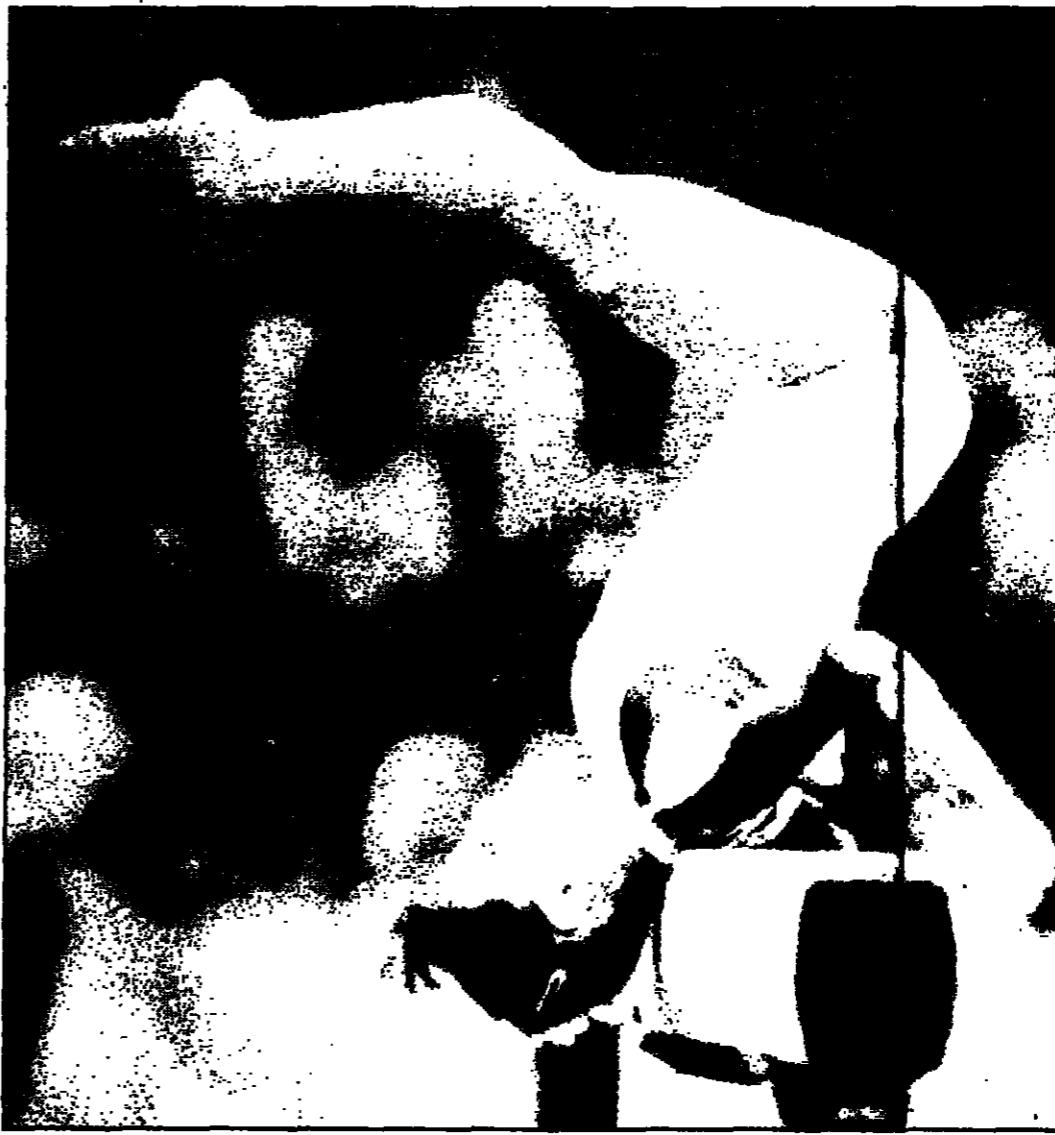
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Silivas keeps her balance as she raises her legs above her head during the balance beam event.

(Reuter wirephoto)

Charles hits 5-under-par for top spot

SCARBOROUGH, New York, May 21. (AP) - Defending champion Bob Charles shot a 5-under-par 65 yesterday and took a four-stroke lead going into the final round of the \$300,000 Commemorative Seniors Golf Tournament.

Charles, 53, a native of New Zealand, had an eagle and five birdies in his round at the par-70, 6,545-yard Sleepy Hollow Country Club under perfect weather conditions for a 36-hole total of 128, 12-under-par.

Baker-Finch, whose biggest victory came in the 1988 Australian Masters, entered the round with a one-hole lead but six birdies and only one bogey as he padded his advantage with birdies at the 15th and 17th holes.

Price had three birdies and a lone bogey in a round of 68 for six-under 204. Isao Aoki of Japan continued to threaten with another 66 to stand alone in third place at 206. Aoki also shot 66 on Thursday but swelled to a second-round 74.

David Frost of South Africa and Clarence Rose were next in line, tied for fourth place at 207.

"Today is the best round I've played in a long while to maintain a lead," Baker-Finch said. "I feel really, really happy with my game. I'm enjoying the situation I'm in now."

Baker-Finch, who hopes to establish himself as a

regular member of the US PGA Tour, is looking for his first victory on the Tour. The closest he has come to victory was last August in the World Series of Golf when he tied for the third-round lead and finished ties for third.

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Price was only two strokes behind going to the 17th but Baker-Finch made a putt of 10 feet for birdie while Price missed the green, chipped on and two-putted for a bogey.

"Ian is playing really, really well," Price said. "I don't feel as if I'm playing as well as I can, but even if Ian shoots a 70 tomorrow, then the rest of us have to shoot a real low score to catch him. It may be a one-man race tomorrow unless he makes a few mistakes."

Today's winner will collect \$180,000.

Price four shots off pace

Baker-Finch extends lead

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 21. (Reuters) - Ian Baker-Finch of Australia continued his drive toward victory as he opened up a four-stroke lead over Nick Price of Zimbabwe yesterday in the million-dollar Colonial Golf Tournament.

The 28-year-old from Queensland carded his second-five-under-par 65 of the tournament for a 10-under-par total of 200. He had a 65 in the first round and a 66 in the second, both with a par-70 in blustery winds on Friday.

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Price four shots off pace

Okamoto moves one-shot clear

KINGS ISLAND, Ohio, May 21. (Reuters) - Ayako Okamoto shot her third straight round in the 60s, a three-under-par 69, to move into a one-shot lead after 54 holes of the LPGA championship women's golf tournament yesterday.

On the front nine I missed four greens," said Okamoto, who managed to go even-par over the front nine with three par-saving putts. "I knew I had to be patient. I tried to concentrate on each shot instead of thinking of the outcome."

After taking a quick coffee break, Okamoto heated up. She birdied the 11th and 12th and then took the lead at 15 when she hit an iron from 18 feet and sank her birdie putt.

Sheehan rebounded from a bogey on the second hole with seven birdies as she vaulted into contention.

"I am excited about tomorrow," said Lopez. "I have improved every day. Hopefully I will improve tomorrow."

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contestation.

"Finally I had some fun on this golf course," said Sheehan who won this championship in 1983 and 1984. "This tournament means so much to me. I hope I can win this one."

Lopez said patience was the key in her round of 68. She parred every hole on the front side and did not birdie until number 10. She then recorded three more birdies to put herself into contention.

"Charles is just playing great," said Bies, who has four wins on the senior tour, two this year. "I feel he's the best player on the tour. As far as consistency goes, no one can match him."

Crompton, who has 16 wins as a senior, one more than he had on the regular Tour, said he adjusted his game after a 68 on Friday and went out confident. He had seven birdies and only one bogey, when he hit his second shot over the green on the par 4 13th.

Still, he wasn't satisfied.

"I was fighting the ball off the tee," Charles said. "I'm going out to the driving range for some practice. It's only something mechanical. I think I just have to wait for the shot a little longer."

That's not what his rivals said of Charles, who is the Senior Tour's seventh-leading money winner this year after leading the Tour in 1988.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Real triumph

MADRID, May 21. (Reuter): Spanish soccer champions Real Madrid, virtually assured of their fourth successive title, overcame a 2-0 interval deficit and a sending off to hold Atletico Madrid to a thrilling 3-3 away draw yesterday.

Cup qualifier

JAKARTA, May 21. (UPI): Indonesia and North Korea played to a goalless draw today in the opening East Asian Group Six qualifier for the 1990 World Soccer Cup.

Prototype race

DIJON, France, May 21. (AP): Frenchman Bob Wollek and West German Franz Jelinski drove a Porsche 962 to victory in the Dijon 480-kilometre (300-mile) sports prototype race today.

Italian soccer

Rome, May 21. (Reuter): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:

Atlanta	1	Sampdoria	0
Bologna	0	Inter	6
Juventus	2	Roma	0
Lazio	1	Fiorentina	0
Napoli	4	Torino	1
Pescara	1	Lecco	1
Pisa	3	Como	1
Verona	0	Ascoli	1
AC Milan	0	Cesena	0

Outdoor debut

EAST BERLIN, May 21. (Reuter): Olympic shotput champion Ulf Timmermann made his outdoor debut this season at an East Berlin domestic athletics meeting yesterday with a fine series of throws well over 21 metres.

Anderlecht win

BRUSSELS, Belgium, May 21. (AP): Anderlecht beat Cup holder Standard Liege 2-0 and FC Liege edged local rival Standard Liege 1-0 in first leg games of the Belgian Soccer Cup semifinal over the weekend.

Title fight

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, May 21. (AP): Puerto Rican Jose de Jesus won the vacant junior flyweight World Boxing Organisation title with a ninth-round knockout over Mexican Fernando Martinez.

Match postponed

HONG KONG, May 21. (Reuter): A World Cup qualifying soccer match between Hong Kong and Japan, due to be played today, was put back to Monday because of a typhoon and traffic jams caused by a demonstration.

Road race

TOKYO, May 21. (AP): Francisco Garcia Aranda of Spain edged Jose Manuel Sotomayor Yoshimatsu of Mexico by 3.8 seconds today for the men's title in the 1989 international cycle road race in Tokyo.

Konishi wins

TOKYO, May 21. (AP): American champion Konishi ended the Summer Grand Sumo tournament with a 9-4 record as he was slapped down to the dirt by junior champion Kotogamine today.

Japanese team

SENDAI, Japan, May 21. (AP): The Japanese team of Kazuyoshi Hoshino and Moto Kitano drove their Nissan Skyline to victory yesterday in the highland 300-kilometre (185-mile) championship race.

Amateur golf

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 21. (AP): Australia's Stuart Bowyer shot a one-under-par 71 today and won the Malaysian amateur golf championship by five strokes.

African Cup

ALGIERS, May 21. (Reuter): Union of Algiers qualified for the quarter-finals of the African Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday night by beating Stade de Mali in a penalty shootout.

Ticket fraud

LONDON, May 21. (Reuter): Police arrested a turnstile attendant at London's Wembley stadium on Saturday for alleged ticket fraud at the FA Cup final between Liverpool and Everton.

British soccer

LONDON, May 21. (Reuter): Results of English League promotion play-off semi-final first-leg soccer matches on Monday:

Division Two		Division One	
Blackburn	0	Watford	0
Swindon	1	Crystal P	0
Bristol R	0	Fulham	0
Preston v Port Vale playing tomorrow	0	Division One	0
Leyton	2	Scarborough	0
Wrexham	3	Sunderland	1

Bridge

THE Dubai Bridge Association will host the Team-of-Four (Swiss League Bridge Tournament) on May 25 & 26. The tournament, being sponsored by Dunhill, has an entry fee of Dhs 500 for a four-member team with Dhs 125 for each additional member. The maximum number is restricted to six. DBA will provide any assistance required towards arrangement of visas. For further information call Dubai on the following numbers: Rehal D'Souza 370550 (office) or 522286 (residence) or Deepak Patel 212435 (office) or 221703 (residence).

Results of the Hubra Bridge Club game held on Saturday.

N/S
Sharing 1st: Nabil Akef & Narendra Shah and Al Baz & Ahmed Tawil 3rd: Gajjar & Aurora E/W
1. Camilia Gurguis & Kamal Arafeh 2. Capt Salman Ali & Dr Adel 3. Mukerjee & Chaudhury

Sunday Silence wins Preakness Stakes to close in on triple crown

BALTIMORE, Md., May 21. (Reuter): Spanish soccer champions Real Madrid, virtually assured of their fourth successive title, overcame a 2-0 interval deficit and a sending off to hold Atletico Madrid to a thrilling 3-3 away draw yesterday.

The victory for Sunday Silence, who also beat Easy Goer two weeks ago to win the Kentucky Derby, put the California-based three-year-old colt

just one victory away from US thoroughbred racing's triple crown.

Rock Point finished third in the eight-horse field, five lengths behind Easy Goer. Dansil was fourth.

Sunday Silence, ridden by Patrick Valenzuela, will attempt to become the 12th horse to win the coveted triple crown when he goes in the Belmont Stakes in three weeks at Belmont Park

in New York.

The victory was worth \$441,480. Victory in the Belmont would bring Sunday Silence a triple crown bonus of \$5 million.

Pat Day, the jockey for Easy Goer, claimed foul following the race which ended with a scintillating duel down the final straight with Sunday Silence running just outside Easy Goer who was at

the rail.

Day claimed Sunday Silence interfered while the two horses matched strides but the objection was disallowed.

The winning time was 1:53 4/5, third fastest ever in the Preakness.

Sunday Silence, who was second choice behind Easy Goer in the Derby, was again in the same position. He went

off at 2-1, while Easy Goer, whose supporters blamed his Derby defeat on a muddy track, was a 3-5 choice over Pimlico's fast track.

Houston took the lead early and held it through the six furlongs of the nine and a half furlong race. But when the field made the last turn, it became a two-horse race.

With Easy Goer on the inside and

Sunday Silence on his flank, the two went neck and neck for most of the final straight and bumped for much of the strip.

Sunday Silence, after falling behind with a half a furlong left, prevailed by a nose over his chestnut rival.

Valenzuela later admitted the horses brushed, but said he did not fear disqualification.

Graf crushes Sabatini

World No. 1 retains W. German title



Graf demolished Sabatini

Papin scores two goals

Marseille win French title

PARIS, May 21. (Reuter): Two

second-half goals from their virtuous striker Jean-Pierre Papin gave Marseille their fifth French League title and their first in 17 years before a delirious 40,000 crowd at their own Stade Velodrome yesterday.

Papin's goals helped Marseille to a 2-1 win over UEFA hopefuls Auxerre as rivals Paris St Germain put themselves out of contention with a dispiriting goalless draw against bottom club Lens.

Papin took his goal tally to 22 for the season with his strikes in the 55th and 64th minutes. He opened the score with a brilliant mazy dribble through the Auxerre defence after a long pass from Bruno Germain.

Auxerre goalkeeper Bruno Martin pulled Papin down nine minutes later as the striker looked set to score again but justice was done when he netted the resulting penalty himself.

Marseille, who had threatened to go ahead when Franck Sauzeau rattled the bar from a direct free kick in the 50th minute, had a nervous last six minutes after Auxerre pulled one back through Pascal Vahirua.

Hearing news of Paris St Germain's surprising failure to score in Lens, hundreds of Marseille supporters arrived to join the celebrations late in the second half, causing overcrowding in the stands but no incidents were reported.

Trainer Gerard Gili's reward for the title look certain to be an instant demotion. Club boss Bernard Tapie told a radio reporter he expected to have a big-name foreign trainer next season — coaching the youth team.

Results

Bordeaux	3	Caen	3
Laval	0	Toulon	0
Lens	0	Pans S.G.	0
Marseille	2	Auxerre	1
Maubeuge	1	Lille	1
Metz	0	Monaco	3
Nantes	1	Canne	2
Nice	3	Sociedad	2
St Etienne	1	Montpellier	1
Strasbourg	4	Toulouse	2

Leading standings (tableau under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Marseille	37	20	13	4	56	34	73
PSG	37	19	12	6	43	34	69
Monaco	37	17	14	6	58	37	65
Sociedad	37	18	11	8	47	28	62
Auxerre	37	18	11	8	41	40	52

Austria hold E. Germany in Cup qualifier

LEIPZIG, East Germany, May 21. (Reuter): East German soccer sank to a fresh low yesterday as the national side squandered their faint World Cup chances with a 1-1 draw against Austria in a European Group Three qualifier.

Seville striker Toni Polster put Austria ahead in the third minute when he capitalised on a bad defensive blunder by Andreas Trautmann, swept into the box and blasted home under the legs of bewildered East German goalkeeper Joerg Weissflog.

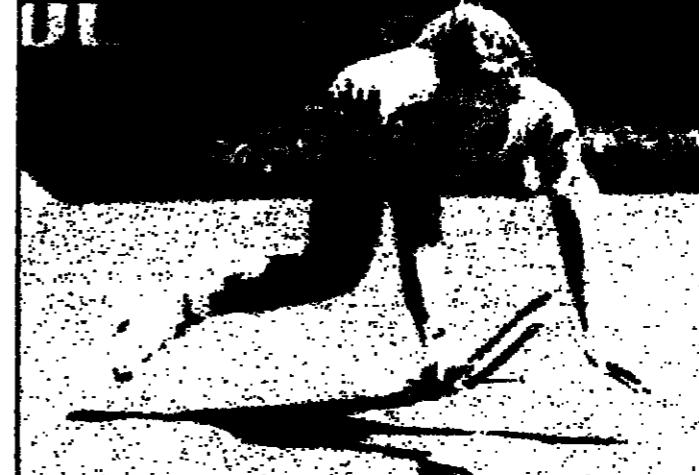
Dynamo Dresden's Ulf Kisten volleyed a surprise 87th-minute equaliser from just outside the area but it was too little, far too late.

Austria dominated much of the game with a cool, tight defence and lightning breaks spearheaded by Polster on the right and Gerhard Rodax down the left wing.

The draw left Austria with three points from three games and a chance to reach the finals with group leaders the Soviet Union.

For East Germany the outlook seems grim. They have the same number of points as Austria but have played five games.

In the 18th minute Polster came close again when he rose to meet a high cross from Heribert Prohaska but saw Weissflog punch the ball away just in time.



Becker eager to perform well in team tournament

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 21. (Reuter): World number two Boris Becker, battling to adapt his strong serve-and-volley game to slow clay courts, is hoping the men's World Team Cup, starting tomorrow, will provide him with vital inspiration for next week's French Open.

The West German, who has never won a major Grand Prix title on clay, was beaten in the semifinals at last week's West German Open by Austrian Host Skoff and suffered painful spasms in his back.

The US are drawn in the same round-robin group as West Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Argentina and Australia make up the other group.

The teams play each other once in a three-match rubber, made up of two singles and doubles. The respective group winners will meet in next Sunday's final.

Colak meets his match

ISTANBUL, May 21. (Reuter): Europe's top soccer League goal scorer, Tanju Colak, met his match last week when close marking by his jealous fans caught him offside in love.

The fans surrounded an Istanbul flat where Colak, married with one child, had a rendezvous on Thursday night with his film star lover Hulya Avsar.

"Tanju is ours" "enough Tanju, it's disgusting" were the polite shouts of hundreds of boisterous fans gathered outside the apartment where the two met for over five hours.

The Istanbul press also blew the whistle over the affair, which could land the two in jail if Colak's wife takes legal action. "Tanju should be warned," said the popular daily Sabah.

Newspapers lined the story this weekend with blow-by-blow accounts, family reactions and Colak's comment: "I'm fed up. Why can't I have a private life?"

Avsar ran a barrage of fans' teasing abuse as she left her rendezvous and told reporters there were more headlines to come: "We are not through. We couldn't end it."

Colak's car telephone conversations have been splashed across newspaper front pages and on Thursday fans were pictured listening at the door of the apartment where he met Avsar.